

Winter 1999

Montana

The Magazine of The University of Montana



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Photo: Department of Drama/Dance archives.

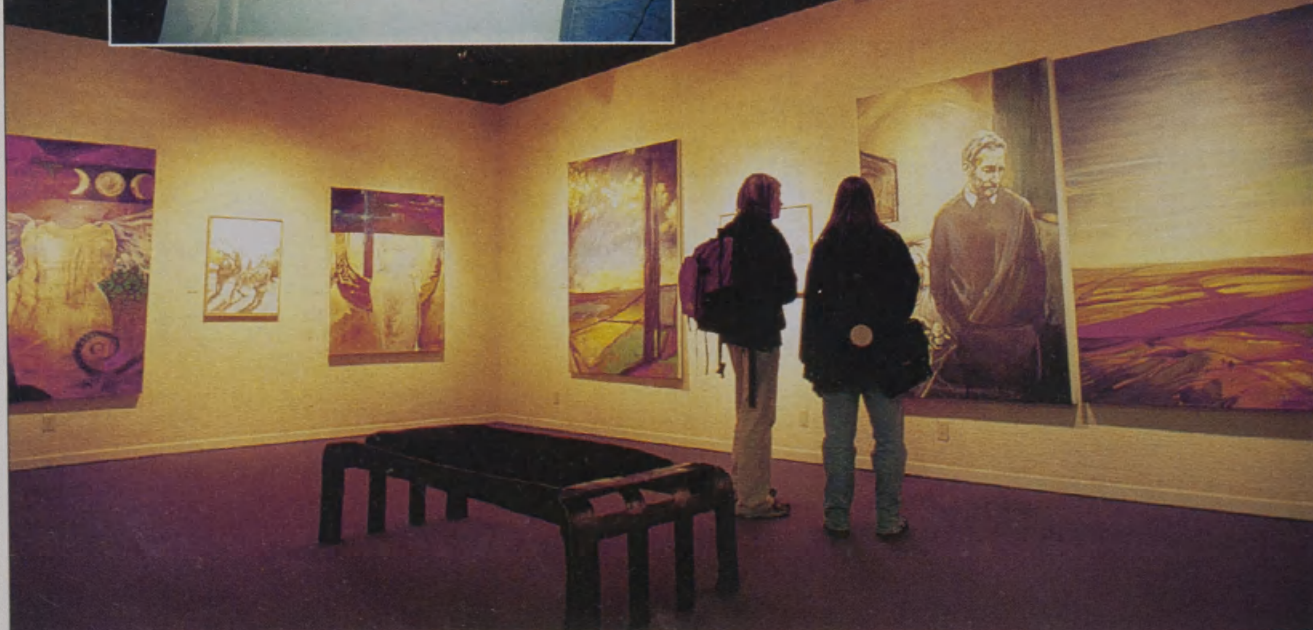


ART ON VIEW

Galleries on campus bring a seasonal change of artistic works to the public's attention in a variety of settings. The Meloy Gallery in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center presented graduate thesis work last semester, including Kendra Bayer's mixed media "Seductress" (right). In the University Center (below), a once sober lounge for languishing and quiet study now features changing exhibitions of sculpture, painting and mixed media, including graduate student Anthony Lott's show "Dissociations: Spirit and Society" in February. The Gallery of Visual Arts in the Social Science Building displays works with an emphasis on canvas. The recent February show titled "Dreaming the West" featured such surrealist work as "Hinckley's Brain" by Jesse Valentine (inset). Open to the public, all three galleries serve the University community as well as surrounding areas.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



Greetings from the President

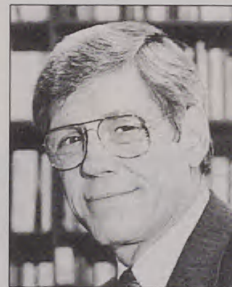
I extend to you our collective best wishes for a wonderful and productive 1999. It seems incredible that the new millennium will dawn within a few months. Having lived in the century that truly tried human ingenuity and resourcefulness, I eagerly await the new one.

As I considered an appropriate message for this issue of the *Montanan*, I came to a deeper appreciation of the University's leadership in the arts throughout Montana and the region. In the new century, colleges and universities must reassert their traditional missions to ensure the continuation of our common culture. I make this statement with the clear intention of maintaining the culture's eclectic nature, borrowing as it has from the aboriginal population and the successive waves of immigrants. Robert Bellah informed us some years ago that we best define a culture as a continuing dialogue about things that matter among people who care. We do have much in common, even as we celebrate our diversity.

Through numerous initiatives, The University of Montana strives to fulfill its unique mission in the arts. This issue of the magazine will introduce some faculty members and students who have, through their commitments and accomplishments, moved us in the appropriate directions. The richness of the campus resources and the creativity of the

people who constitute the University offer proud testament to our continuing commitment.

I remain optimistic about the future of the University and our society despite the problems we face. Henry Adams, one of America's great intellects, contemplated the opening of a new century one hundred years ago. He discounted the warnings of the skeptics who argued that the human mind lacked the scope and power to resolve or even to comprehend the new challenges. He believed humanity up to the task, although he concluded that the human mind would "have to leap." It did, and so it will in the new century if we but prepare young people properly.



George M. Dennison

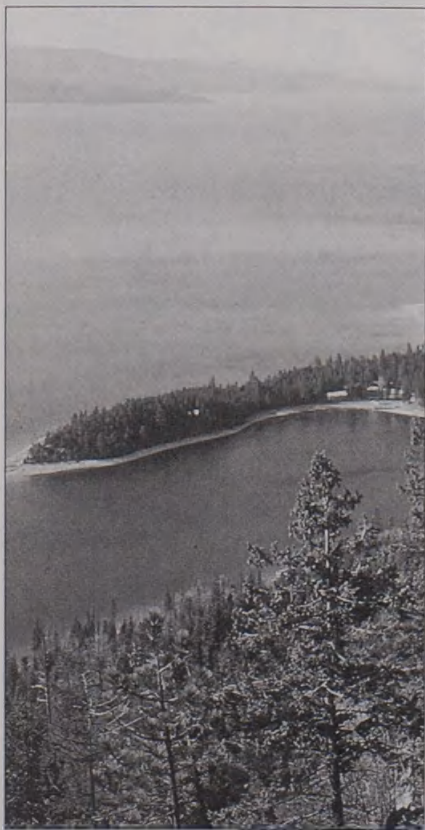
George M. Dennison
President and Professor of History

UM BIOLOGICAL STATION: A CENTURY OF ECOLOGY RESEARCH

Montana's Flathead Lake, one of the world's three hundred largest lakes, has maintained a clean reputation in times when much of the world's waters have been polluted to irreversible levels. Yet reputation alone could not protect the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River from water-quality decline forever.

The University's Flathead Lake Biological Station at Yellow Bay is a watchful guardian of the lake. Since 1977, under the direction of Jack Stanford, station scientists have studied trends in the lake's water quality, keeping lake managers informed. The station, which has no managerial authority, provides scientific information for the protection of Flathead Lake and its surrounding ecosystem.

The station has been concerned with the Flathead ecosystem for much longer than twenty-two years. Morton J. Elrod, the first director, established the biological station in 1899 at the mouth of the Swan River. That



Above: Flathead Lake's Yellow Bay. Left: Biological station scientists sample river biota in the Flathead River. Right: A limnocorral, which creates an experimental microcosm for observing organisms, is placed in the lake for fertilization experiments. (Photos by Jack Stanford)

site north of Yellow Bay was a place for scientific study and teaching until 1912, when the station moved to its present location.

Since its beginning, the biological station has been dedicated to teaching scientific field courses. As years passed, ecological research also became a significant priority.

Today the biological station staff works year-round toward four goals: to conduct and publish basic research in ecology, with an emphasis on the Flathead River/Lake ecosystem; to offer quality college courses in field-oriented ecological disciplines; to train graduate students in ecology; and to provide information to the public on ecological issues.

To mark its centennial, biological station faculty and staff will celebrate this summer with a series of public events, including guided hikes, a fishing derby and seminars. A \$10 million Capital Campaign will finance buildings, professorships and equipment purchases to take the station into the next millennium.



SWISH

Larry Krystkowiak's celebrated number 42 was retired in 1989, honoring his four great years playing power forward for the Griz before being drafted in 1986 by the NBA. He went on to play with the San Antonio Spurs, the Milwaukee Bucks and the Utah Jazz.

The number may be hanging up, but Krystkowiak himself shows no sign of slowing down. Returning to his alma mater in fall 1998, the amiable athlete now has an office and official duties on campus, assisting head coach Don Holst with this year's Griz team.

"I've always been a Grizzly," Krystkowiak says proudly. Ever since his playing days ended, he had been interested in coaching, and when the opportunity to coach at UM presented itself, Krystkowiak, well, jumped.

Now as assistant coach he spends a lot of time behind the scenes, dealing with everything from players' academic performances to fan attendance. This season poses a special challenge for Krystkowiak, as well as players and fans—the use of Sentinel High School's gym while UM's nine-thousand-seat events center is renovated. "If we can weather this, well, it'll never be more difficult than this," he says. Sounding every inch a coach, he adds, "When I was rehabbing my knee, the doctor used to say to me, 'If it doesn't kill you, it'll make you stronger.'"



Assistant Coach Krystkowiak gives a pointer to senior Griz guard Cory Reiser in a recent game against Evergreen State.

◀ "Krysko" at the top of his game: as power forward for the Griz, Larry Krystkowiak is the most prolific scorer and rebounder in UM history with 2,017 points and 1,105 rebounds.

PADDLE ON, DUDE

The University isn't all study and research. In fact, UM was named one of the top ten universities in the nation for canoeing, kayaking and rafting in the September/October 1998 issue of *Paddler* magazine.

In a section titled "The Nation's Best Paddling Colleges" an article, accompanied by a photo of a kayaker flying off Kootenai Falls, described the University, UM's Campus Recreation Outdoor Program and some Missoula watering holes and restaurants.

"They looked at where the University was located when making their selections," Outdoor Program manager Dudley Improta says. "We have a lot of good runs close to campus on the Blackfoot River and the Alberton Gorge on the Clark Fork. We also are close to Idaho rivers like the Lochsa and the Salmon."

Improta and his staff maintain a fleet of canoes, rafts and various inflatables. Campus Recreation offers paddling classes, trips and rentals to the campus community and members of the Alumni Association, and Improta says the program stays busy with river trips from mid-April to mid-September.

Paddler is a national canoeing, kayaking and rafting magazine based in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

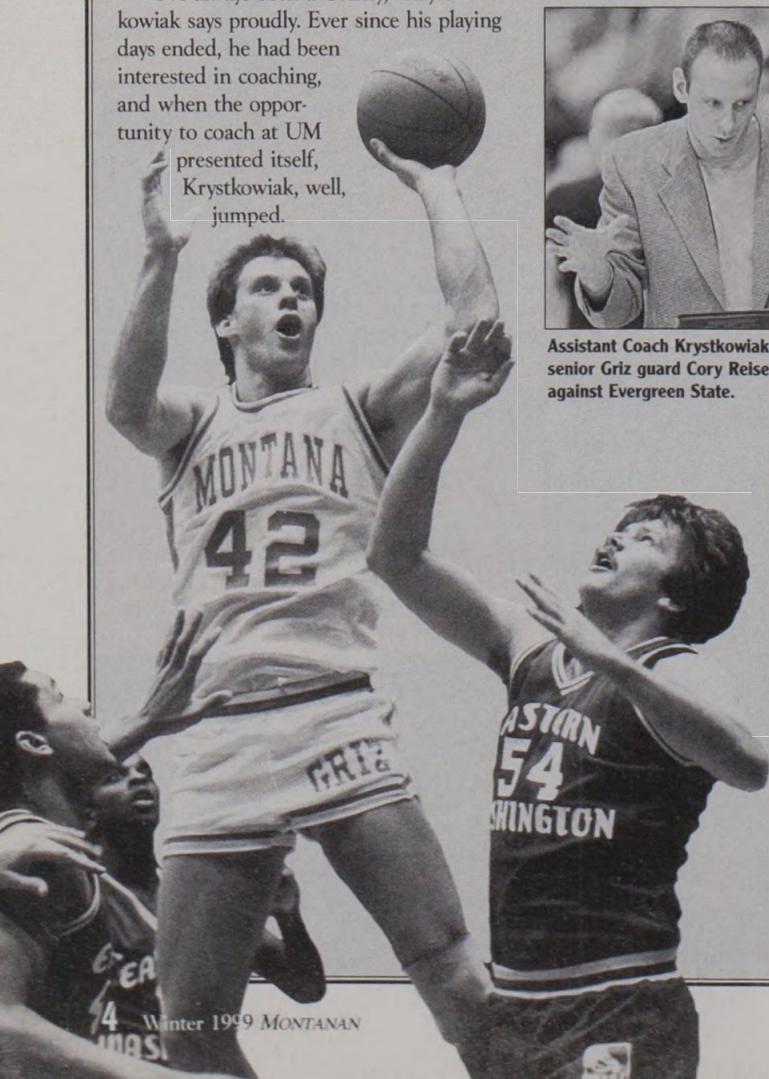
BEST BUY

For the second year, UM was singled out as an American university that gives students and parents the best value for their education dollar.

America's 100 Best College Buys highlights colleges and universities that are rated highest academically but have costs below the national average. The institutions listed also have incoming freshman classes with grade-point averages above the national average.

"These are all 'value-added' colleges, where a top-notch college education is available for a reasonable cost," says John Culler, the book's publisher.

"This ranking provides solid evidence of our continued effort to make sure we protect the relationship between price and quality," says UM President George Dennison. "We have kept prices down and quality high, and

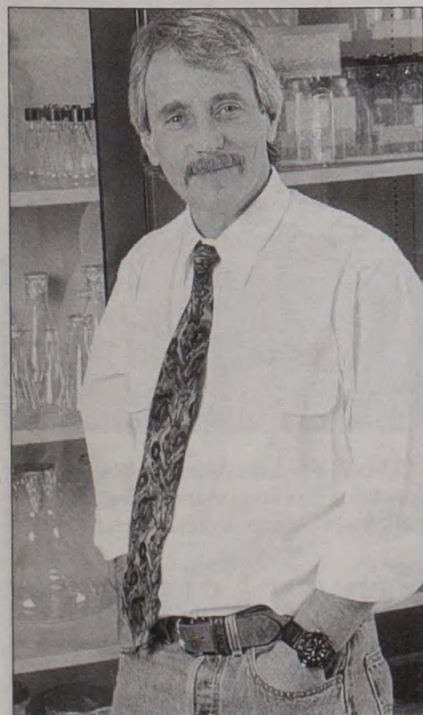


that has earned recognition. We intend to make even greater efforts in the future."

UM also was featured in Barron's *Best Buys in College Education, 5th Edition*, which lists the top three hundred American four-year colleges and universities that give the best value for the education dollar.

SCIENCE BREAKS A UM BREAKTHROUGH

In an imaginative leap propelled equally by scientific theory, intuition and luck, UM virologist Jack H. Nunberg and research associates have succeeded in creating the first prototype vaccine that can induce antibodies—in mice—capable of neutralizing genetical-



ly diverse strains of HIV grown from the blood of infected individuals from around the world.

"We believe we have opened a door onto a new avenue of HIV research that may one day lead to development of an effective HIV vaccine," says Nunberg, head of the Montana Biotechnology Center at UM and a professor of biological sciences.

Nunberg, former doctoral student Rachel LaCasse, postdoctoral fellow Meg Trahey, senior research associate Kathy Follis and Dan R. Littman of the New York University School of Medicine, reported their findings in December's issue of the journal *Science*.

The success of Nunberg's vaccine approach hinges on capturing HIV in the midst of its intricate dance of binding and fusion with T lymphocytes, the immune system's primary target of HIV attack. The vaccine is made of proteins from the virus' outer envelope in active combination with certain receptor molecules on the surfaces of T cells. Such "fusion-competent" immunogens apparently more closely mimic the conditions of active infection by twenty-three of twenty-four genetically diverse HIV types found in the United States, Europe, Africa, India and Thailand.

PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

Annie Sondag, UM professor of health and human performance, won the 1998 Montana Professor of the Year Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation. Her win brings the coveted CASE award back to UM for the first time since Regents Professor Paul Lauren won it in 1991.

The award recognizes Sondag for her exceptional service to her profession as a health educator, researcher and participant on a range of curricular and policy-making committees in the state and region.

"Annie Sondag is an individual of uncommon commitment and talent," says Sharon Dinkel Uhlig, associate dean of the School of Education. Uhlig says Sondag is an accomplished scholar and devoted public servant with enviable teaching abilities.

At state and regional levels, Sondag is considered one of the elite health educators in Montana. She represented health education at the Health Enhancement Summit Conference in 1996, a conference that occurs every five years and sets standards for state agencies and organizations concerning the health needs of young children and adolescents. She was one of four authors of *Health Enhance-*



ment: Montana and National Standards, which now serves as the guiding document for all Montana K-12 school curriculum development.

CASE is an international association of colleges, universities and independent elementary and secondary schools that focuses on alumni relations, communications and fundraising. CASE established the Professors of the Year program in 1981 and administers it with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and various higher education associations.



The year 2000 won't mean the end of the world, but January's first two weeks might be a little rough. That's what more than 150 people learned during UM's Year 2000 Forum in January. The forum addressed the potentially devastating millennium problem in which computers may fail because of an inability to recognize accurately the 00 in the year 2000. Participants discussed how serious the problem is likely to

be—whether utilities, foods supplies and transportation will be affected—and hit on possible solutions. Precautions include getting a paper record of personal investments before the year turns, replacing older hardware and software in personal computers, and making sure essential items like pacemakers, which contain computer chips, are Y2K compliant. Most speakers assured the audience that building bunkers and stockpiling weapons would be an overreaction. However, one Y2K specialist, Cynthia Beal, said people do have some reason to panic, but they don't have the time. 1999, she said, should be spent getting the bugs out.

MOVING ON

Sheila Stearns, chancellor of Western Montana College in Dillon and former vice president for UM relations, has accepted the presidency of Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska. She assumes her new role July 1. Currently, Stearns and her husband, Hal, are serving as UM's part-time legislative liaisons during the 1999 session. Stearns has been chancellor at WMC since 1993. She earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at UM.

CLICK HERE

UM's Web site offers a great way to keep up with campus activities, stay in touch with fellow alums and find out the very latest in UM news. With a changing snapshot of campus and daily feature articles about University people and events, the site offers access to the Mansfield Library card catalogs, the alumni home page, Grizzly Athletics, the *Kaimin*, *Cut Bank*—UM's literary magazine—and more. Subscribe to the campus Internet newsletter or find out about recent faculty publications. The site, which offers links to many Missoula sites, is a great way for parents to learn more about campus. Make UM your home page as well as your home team. Visit us at www.umat.edu.



PHOTO BY LOREN WOLTON/MISSOULA INDEPENDENT

◀ **Space Punks:** The New Yorker recently profiled a Missoula punk band, the Sputniks, also known as UM students Chad Dundas, Zach Dundas, Rich Rowe and Grady Gadbow.

NEW YORKER PUNKS OUT

Snapped off Missoula shelves this past fall was an issue of *The New Yorker* that featured an article by William Finnegan (M.F.A. '78) on the Sputniks, a Missoula-based punk band. Members include UM students Grady Gadbow, Rich Rowe, and Chad and Zach Dundas.

The magazine portrayed the band as an emblem of today's youth culture, complete with apathy and mustard sandwiches. The journalist traveled with the band members for a few weeks last summer as the Sputniks finessed a do-it-yourself tour and camped out in vans and closets.

The band members, who come from a long line of UM graduates, didn't mind taking some time off from their studies or their own work in journalism (Chad presently writes for the *Kaimin*; Zach works at the *Missoula Independent*) to pursue their head-banging passions and pose a bit for the magazine's photographer.

Has the *New Yorker* exposure affected the fate of the Sputniks any? Zach Dundas remarks, "Our fan base among middle-aged English professors is way up."

WATCHING HUTTO

For twenty-one years, noted ornithologist and UM Professor Richard Hutto has introduced the world of birds to his students. Now Hutto has found a larger audience.

Hutto is the new host of "BirdWatch," a national public television series dedicated to all aspects of birds and bird-watching. The ten-part, magazine-style series showcases birds in wildernesses and backyards throughout the United States. "BirdWatch" caters to the

eighty million Americans who make bird-watching one of the nation's most popular outdoor hobbies.

Hutto has filmed segments of "BirdWatch" in places as far flung as the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve in Arizona, one of the country's premier birding hot spots, and New York City's Central Park, where red-tail hawks nest over Fifth Avenue.

Other episodes have been taped closer to home. Hutto featured short-eared owls in the Mission Valley twilight, Pattee Canyon goshawks above Missoula and a variety of birds along the Bitterroot River.

Hutto isn't the only UM professor with a national bird-watching show. His colleague, Professor Ken Dial, hosts a program titled



PHOTO BY MICHAEL GALLAGHER

"All Bird TV" on the Animal Planet channel. For more information visit the program's Web site at www.wbu.com/birdwatch.

PROVEN LEADER

President George Dennison's leadership and vision at UM have captured the attention of peer institutions across the Northwest. Dennison received the prestigious 1999 Council for Advancement and Support of Education District VIII Leadership Award during the organization's annual conference in Portland, Oregon, in February. The award recognizes Dennison's role as a leader, supporter and participant in institutional advancement, says Cassie S. McVeety, chair of the CASE District VIII board of directors. It also demonstrates he is

recognized and respected by his peers, she adds.

Under Dennison's leadership, funded research at UM has increased each year—from \$7 million when he arrived in 1990 to more than \$26 million in 1997-98. He also led the most successful Capital Campaign in Montana's higher education history, raising more than \$71 million for UM. CASE District VIII comprises professionals in advancement positions at educational institutions in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and four Canadian provinces.

IN MEMORIAM

Professors Emeriti Rueben Diettert and Thomas Payne will long be remembered by UM as inspirational teachers of botany and political science, respectively. But the two, who died a day apart in November, also left their marks on local and state communities.

Diettert, a thirty-seven-year veteran of UM's botany department and the founder of the Montana State Science Fair, died of natural causes November 22 in Missoula. He was ninety-seven years old. Payne died at age seventy-



Thomas Payne

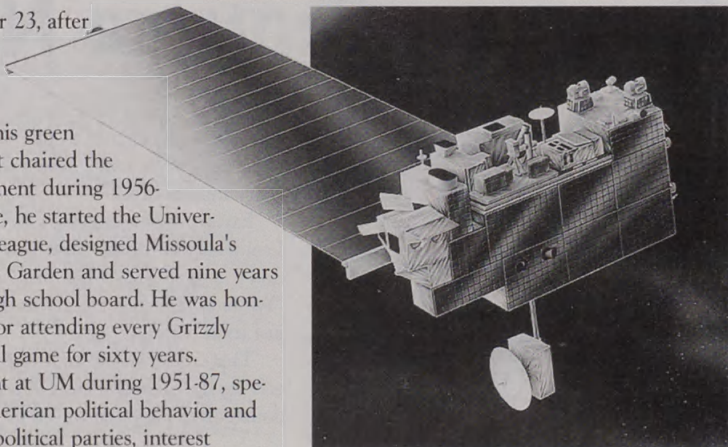
eight November 23, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Famed for his green thumb, Diettert chaired the botany department during 1956-66. On the side, he started the University's bowling league, designed Missoula's Memorial Rose Garden and served nine years on the local high school board. He was honored in 1997 for attending every Grizzly home basketball game for sixty years.

Payne taught at UM during 1951-87, specializing in American political behavior and topics such as political parties, interest groups, elections and campaigns. He also participated in the political process, twice running unsuccessfully for the state Legislature and serving three years on the Montana State Commission for Local Government. In 1984 he received UM's first Distinguished Service Award. He received the Robert T. Pantzer Award in 1986 for helping make UM a more open and humane learning environment.

RUNNING IN SPACE

If all goes according to plan, software designed by UM forestry Professor Steve Running will be launched into orbit July 15. Since 1992 Running has used a \$7.9 million NASA grant to create software for the Earth Observing Satellite, a \$7 billion



machine that will monitor forest ecosystems from space. Running's program, which will measure vegetation cover across the globe, can be used to predict the likelihood of forest fires, study drought conditions and chronicle other global changes. The satellite will be a premier instrument for measuring global warming.

Running wrote the software with a team of about a dozen UM faculty and graduate students. He says the satellite will bring major attention to UM after the July launch, since he and his staff will train experts to interpret the data the satellite gathers. Running has worked with NASA since 1981, when the space agency decided to expand its scientific research team to include a variety of scientists such as ecologists. **M**

MASTERS OF THE MEDIA ARTS

Two students will receive a brand-new type of degree this spring when they graduate with a Master of Fine Arts in media arts.

The recently created program, directed by drama Assistant Professor Michael Murphy, integrates narrative with the technology

that's rapidly becoming available, everything from digital video to photo manipulation. The program, five years in the making, focuses on narrative, because, as Murphy puts it, "story and narrative, in our view, are our culture's way of generating meaning." Although tiny, with only six students and four faculty members, the program already offers a couple of undergraduate courses and hopes to qualify soon as a minor.

"The only people who advance in television, for example," Murphy says, "are the writers—the people who understand the guts of what story is." Story is so important in media arts that faculty members start out with the basics, "the beginning, the middle and



Assistant Professors Michael Murphy and Rick Hughes lead students on the media mystery tour.

the end," before working their way up to interactive technologies such as CD-ROM. Developed by Murphy and drama Professor James Rilely, the three-year program hopes to give students a sense of today's "multilinear" narrative. And this, Murphy thinks, will keep UM at the cultural frontier.

"Students aren't aware of the stories they're being fed all the time," he says. "This teaches them to interact with story in a meaningful way."



WWWIn

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GRIZZLIES PIONEER NEW PATHS

by Rick Stern

As the nineties draw to a close, the pioneering spirit is alive and well on the fields and ice of Missoula. Grizzly bears may have been crowded out of the valley by people, but, in the name of the great bear, UM sports teams continue to blaze new trails in the world of intercollegiate sports, Western-style.

The work—and play—of Montana teams in four sports are especially notable when considering the role of the Grizzlies in altering the face of collegiate athletics in the Intermountain West. Fairly new squads in the games of soccer, ice hockey and lacrosse have quickly gained attention—not only from the Missoula community but from competitors as well. And the football Grizzlies, long a fixture in Missoula, are in the midst of a decade of success.

FOOTBALL

Any discussion of UM athletics is bound to focus on football in light of the six incredible years the Griz have strung together, including the 1998 campaign. The Grizzlies capped their regular season with a gritty, muddy 32-29 victory over Montana State in quarterback Brian Ah Yat's final home game. The victory marked the thirteenth consecutive time that the Griz downed the Bobcats, who would have won the Big Sky Conference title and earned a playoff berth had they beaten Montana.

In a respectable season the Griz finished 8-4, losing in the first round of the Division I-AA playoffs to the Western Illinois Leathernecks. The 52-9 loss was the worst shellacking Montana has suffered since 1985, when the Division I-A University of Minnesota team pummeled them 62-17. The loss to the Leathernecks also saw the departure of Ah Yat, playing his last Griz game. The starting quarterback's three-year career racked up some incredible statistics, and Ah Yat, named Big Sky Offensive Most Valuable Player for the second time, concluded his college career as a pioneer of sorts, joining wide receiver Raul Pacheco as the first Grizzlies ever to play in the Hula Bowl—January's college all-star game in their native Hawaii.

"I had a great time playing here," Ah Yat says. "I got the chance to play with a lot of great guys while I was here, and I enjoyed every minute of it."

Except, maybe, for the loss to the Leathernecks. "As a senior, you definitely don't want to go out like that," Ah Yat says. "Western Illinois is a good team, and they just took it to us."

That defeat in the first round of the playoffs for the second season in a row was undoubtedly a disappointment for Montana fans

spoiled by the Griz's National Championship in 1995 and their outstanding 1996 season in Ah Yat's debut year as a starter. Nevertheless, after losing three of their first six contests, the Grizzlies displayed a heroic effort simply to make the playoffs, winning all five final games in order to take home the Big Sky Conference championship and earn their sixth straight playoff berth.

LACROSSE

A young squad, the Montana women's lacrosse team already finds itself tops in the region after just two years of competition. The region, however, boasts only one team.

For a young team, Montana showed itself capable of upholding the strong Grizzly athletic tradition. Beginning its 1998 season with a roster including women who had never witnessed an actual lacrosse game, Montana finished the year by winning its division in the Pacific Northwest Lacrosse Association's year-end tournament.

Montana's ladies of lacrosse had to travel to the coast last year for all of their games. After four tournaments in coastal Oregon and Washington, the team craves competition somewhat closer to home. They may realize that dream this year, hoping to host a tournament in Missoula during late spring semester. Having made connections and friends with squads from other schools during their forays into tournaments, Montana has received commitments from several squads willing to travel to Missoula for a tournament.

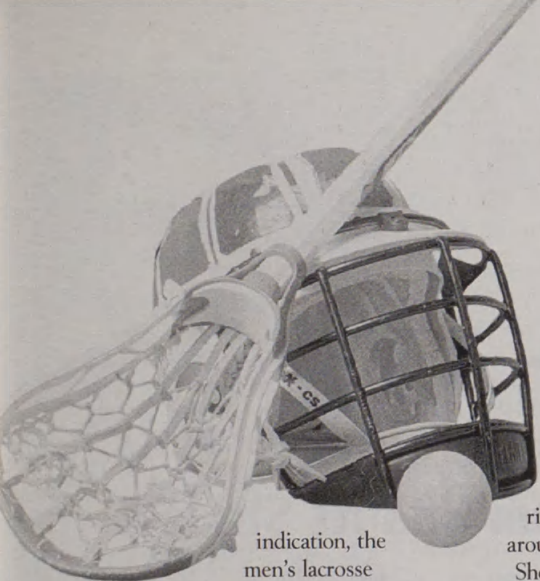
As a team competing at the "club" level, the women's lacrosse team has very little support from the University and is responsible for its own funding and scheduling. According to player/coach Emily Leary, a graduate student in history, the team hopes to travel to Davis, California, for a tournament and probably will return to Washington and Oregon for tournaments during the spring.

The women's success has inspired a group of men to start its own lacrosse team. Practicing throughout the fall, the group is searching for tournaments to participate in during spring semester.

If the history of Montana's other athletics teams, both young and established, is any



Adieu, Ah Yat: Starting quarterback Brian Ah Yat played his final Griz game in 1998.



indication, the men's lacrosse team should have a pretty good chance of success.

HOCKEY

In its first season in the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Hockey Association, Montana's ice hockey squad has established quite a reputation. While compiling a 3-3 record in their first six games, the Fighting Grizzlies have become known for their ability to rack up penalty minutes.

"We should be 6-0 right now," says team President Justin Clausen, a sophomore in criminology. "When we're not shorthanded, we're the best team out there, but right now we're racking up too many penalties and spending too much time in the penalty box."

Clausen attributes that to the team's style of play. "We want to play a physical game because that's what the crowd likes to see," he says. "We also have some heavy hitters."

But don't think the Grizzlies are simply bruisers. Clausen says that he and Eric Penn, the team's coach and a graduate student who hopes to earn a master's degree in wildlife biology or biology education, have seen glimmers of greatness in the play of their first-year squad. Clausen has been particularly impressed with Montana's goaltending and with the versatility and overall skill level of the players on the young Grizzly team. Clausen hopes his Montana squad has a chance to prove its mettle in upcoming contests, including games against Weber State.

"Weber State is the number-one team in the nation at this level," he says. The Grizzlies and Wildcats play in the American Collegiate Hockey Association's Division II, which is several notches below the level played by eastern powerhouses such as two other UMs: Michigan and Maine.

"If we can pull out a win against Weber, that will say a lot for our program," Clausen says. The Grizzlies faced the Wildcats twice this February, just two of the five games scheduled for Montana's spring portion of

the season. Montana also hosted Utah State in February. (Scores were unavailable at press time.) Montana plays all of its home games in the Glacier Ice Rink at the Western Montana Fairgrounds—a rather rinky-dink rink compared to others around the conference.

Should the Grizzlies finish as high as fourth in the seven-team league, they'll earn an invitation to the conference tournament February 25-27 in Ogden, Utah. Montana is currently in third place, but if Clausen's assessment isn't overly optimistic, the Griz could find themselves on top of the hockey heap in the Intermountain West in a very short period of time.

SOCCER

In its fifth year, the Montana soccer team—a women's team that chooses not to bear the Lady Griz name—has already established itself as a regional power. The team went 5-0 to capture the Big Sky Conference Championship during the league's inaugural season in 1997. After winning two more games to capture the Big Sky's first conference tournament that year, Montana came into 1998 as the Big Sky team to beat.

Weber State rose to the challenge, beating Montana 2-1 during the regular season October matchup in Missoula. Montana and Weber both finished 6-1 and shared the Big Sky regular-season championship, but Weber State's victory over Montana earned the Wildcats the right to host the conference tournament in early November.

After defeating Northern Arizona, 2-0, in the first round, Montana earned a rematch with Weber State for the conference crown. But the Wildcats benefited from the home-field advantage, beating the Griz 2-1 in double overtime, to earn bragging rights in the Big Sky.

Anyone who has followed these first two years of the Big Sky Conference, however, knows that Weber State owes much of its success

to the Montana team and coach Betsy Duerksen, who paved the way for soccer in the conference. By establishing a team that was successful from the very beginning,



Soccer coach Betsy Duerksen marked her 100th victory in 1998.

Duerksen attracted notice for soccer in the region and helped to pull previously unaffiliated teams into a conference worthy of national attention.

Rewarded this season with her 100th coaching

victory, Duerksen watched Montana down sixteenth-ranked Brigham Young 4-1 in a September contest in Provo, Utah. Overall, Duerksen has piloted Montana to a 64-28-2

record during the school's five seasons of soccer history. Tapping into the Grizzly trail-blazing spirit, Duerksen and her team have honored a fine history and established a

new tradition of excellence. **M**

Midfielder Michelle Badilla-Gesek outruns a Cal State Northridge opponent in an October match.



Executive director of Missoula Urban Demonstration Project, Rick Stern is a freelance writer.

WRITERS AT WORK

UM's Creative Writing Program Hits Its Stride

by Constance Poten

"With its cynical disregard of relative values, the imagination is one hell of a durable democracy..."

—Richard Hugo

In March 1997, when *U.S. News & World Report* reported that UM's Creative Writing Program ranked in the top ten of its kind, a discernible glow emanated from the west end of the Liberal Arts Building, burning right through the ice-toothed, gray bottom of winter. The news was pure delight and no surprise to the program's director, Kate Gadbow, and former Director Lois Welch, now chair of the English department. It was proof, in black and white, that the program was strong enough to be nationally recognized, joining the exalted ranks of the University of Iowa, Johns Hopkins University and Columbia University.

The achievement is impressive considering the recent proliferation of such programs: more than 200 universities offer graduate degrees in creative writing today, up from forty-four in 1970. In an era with a surging emphasis on career, money and the trappings of luxury it's interesting to note that a creative writing degree is not required for any job on the planet.

"The students don't come into the program for the degree," Gadbow says with a knowing smile. "It's the experience of having a place to concentrate. It's a reaction to the culture. They want something challenging. They want to be able to think and write in a community of like-minded peers who will be their readers."

Students in the program average in their late twenties and hail from all corners of the country.

Most have held other jobs, often as ski instructors, lawyers, outdoor recre-

ation guides, teachers and software industry workers. At least half of them receive financial assistance: tuition waived and an \$8,000 stipend for teaching one undergraduate comprehensive writing class. They choose Montana over other schools for its emphasis on quality writing rather than market pushing; its tradition of independent, well-published professors; its egalitarian, supportive reputation; and its location away from the crowd. "We're going to hell a little bit slower here," poet Richard Hugo once said.

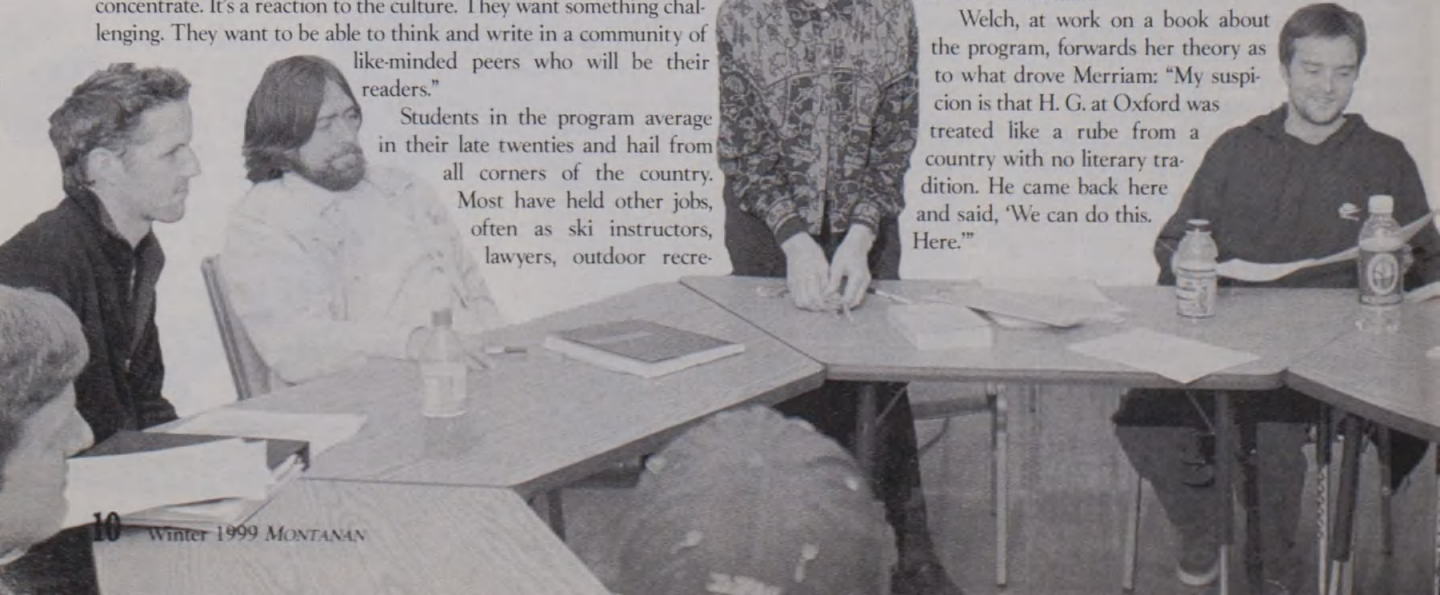
An Age of Upheaval

In 1919 scholar H. G. Merriam returned to the West from Oxford's first class of Rhodes Scholars. Hired by the University, he launched the undergraduate creative writing program. It was an age of upheaval, which may account for his success in storming the campus with a thought-provoking program. T. S. Eliot would soon write *The Wasteland*; World War I had torn apart Europe, inciting revolutions from Russia to Mexico. Due west of Missoula, in Spokane, Washington, suffragist May Hutton had declared, "We either evolve or revolute."

Her rallying cry carried Merriam's own sentiments.

"He believed there was a Western voice in writing," says his granddaughter Ginny Merriam, longtime writer for the *Missoulian*. "He grew up in Denver and was exposed to it. Harvard offered the only creative writing program in the country then." Merriam gained fame for the UM program and for summer writing conferences—lasting through 1960—that attracted literary greats such as Nelson Algren, Wallace Stegner and Bernard Malamud.

Welch, at work on a book about the program, forwards her theory as to what drove Merriam: "My suspicion is that H. G. at Oxford was treated like a rube from a country with no literary tradition. He came back here and said, 'We can do this. Here.'"





Visionary: H. G. Merriam launched the undergraduate creative writing program in 1919.

PHOTO CREDIT: MANSFIELD LIBRARY ARCHIVES

“My suspicion is that Merriam at Oxford was treated like a rube from a country with no literary tradition. He came back and said, ‘We can do this. Here.’”

Fiedler said, “I don’t think Merriam ever said to me in his life one word of praise. His specialty was looking disapproving. On the other hand he gave everyone who taught in his department absolute freedom to do anything they wanted to do.”

Then came Hugo.

The Bulldozer

In 1965, brilliant, ambitious chair of the English department, Warren Carrier wanted a higher profile for the writing program. He founded the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing degree and hired Richard Hugo, sight unseen, on the basis of his poetry—already nationally recognized. On board came the wildest bunch of renegade writers any one institution has had the luck to land. James Lee Burke, James Crumley, William Kittredge, Earl Ganz and Madeline DeFrees joined Hugo, and batches of talented students started to produce fresh and stimulating work. Graduates included James Welch, Rick DeMarinis and Sandra Alcosser, whose most recent book of poetry, *Except by Nature*, won the 1997 National Poetry Series Award, the 1998 James Laughlin Award of the Academy of American Poets and the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Poetry Award (see p. 23 for a review). But after giddy expansion, the University suddenly faced retrenchment, a casualty of Montana’s boom-bust economy. As suddenly as it was born, the writing program faced the ax.

“Academics tended to look down on writers,” remembers Ripley Hugo, a poet and teacher who is Hugo’s widow. “Dick squelched that.”

“Yes, he was that important,” Lois Welch says. “Hugo was so popular as a reader, traveling the country. We got national recognition. He fought for the program. He was perfect: a big bulldozer defending poetry.”

“Because of Dick,” Ripley Hugo says, “the program became a rare place where people were eager to have each other get published. He instilled the sense that one person’s triumph indicates someone else’s. This general rejoicing is something you don’t find elsewhere.”

Nominated for the National Book Award and twice for the Pulitzer Prize, Hugo won fellowships to Europe, edited the Yale Younger Poets Series from 1977 to 1982 and cofounded *Poetry Northwest*. UM’s site on the literary map of America grew from a small dot to a large star. The program flourished. From 1986 to 1994 Welch, married to writer James Welch, directed the program with a loving touch, chosen, she

“Merriam was a strange, tough fellow,” recalled poet and critic Leslie Fiedler, who taught English literature at UM from 1941 to 1965. In a 1980 interview with Deirdre McNamer—then feature writer for the *Missoulian* and now author of three novels and sought-after professor of creative writing at UM—

says, because “I know so much about the care and feeding of writers.”

The Best Place

“It’s one of the more competitive programs on campus,” says director Gadbow, a writer herself. Ten years ago seventy-seven applicants vied for the thirty spots, but by 1992 applications had risen to 394. Published internationally, the faculty today includes fiction writers Kevin Canty, Debra Earling, McNamer and visiting writer Fred Haefele, who teach alongside award-winning, established poets Patricia Goedicke, Greg Pape and Mark Levine. The faculty members uphold, in Goedicke’s words, “the very deep tradition of real generosity, kindness and interest in others that has always existed in this program.”

Central to this tradition is Kittredge, a major voice of the American West who recently retired from twenty-eight years of teaching to write, play golf and write some more. His accessible honesty infused the program with an easy, straightforward dignity. Immensely popular with his students, Kittredge carried forward the ideals of compassion and chal-



UM FILE PHOTO

Leading the renegades: Richard Hugo gave writers and poets credibility.

lenge instilled by Hugo. Kittredge also brought international attention to the program by teaching writing workshops from coast to coast and giving countless readings throughout the United States and abroad.

The value of the program, however, finally depends on the student’s experience.

“The program was difficult. It was hard,” says Beth Brinsfield, who earned a Master of Fine Arts degree at UM and is now working on a novel in Santa Fe. “It was the best place. I have no regrets. I feel like I’m a writer now.” **M**

Constance Poter contributes frequently to the Montanan and is redefining the concept of dried tomatoes with Connie’s Tomato Chips.”

◀ Creative writing Professor Deirdre McNamer holds forth for her graduate students. A workshop typically contains twelve students.



From left: *She Stoops to Conquer* in the Montana Rep's debut 1967 season; Mikel MacDonald in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the show that toured for two years; ensemble giddiness in this year's *It's a Wonderful Life*. Background: George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*.



TOUR DE FORCE

by Patrick Hutchins

The Montana Rep Gets Its Act Together and Takes It on the Road

Gary Fish remembers well the night the wheels came off the Montana Repertory Theatre. A small caravan of actors and prop vehicles was headed across North Dakota, taking *To Kill a Mockingbird* out on the road as part of their grueling tour schedule. Suddenly the company U-Haul up ahead gave a lurch and, in a shower of sparks, shed one of its wheels, which came bounding straight toward the professional actor. The tire bounced off Fish's fender and disappeared. The badly shaken company pulled

off the road and assessed the damage. No one had been hurt, and after the sets, costumes and props were transferred to a new truck, the show, of course, went on—to its next engagement in a small-to-medium-sized auditorium somewhere in America.

Road mishaps notwithstanding, the University's resident professional theater company has been on a roll for the past decade. Under the guidance of its affable artistic director, Greg Johnson, the Rep's carefully selected shows have proven popular with audiences, and what was once a tour of the region now covers most of the United States. Fish reports visiting forty-seven states in the last four years.

Significantly, the company gets invited back by the local subscription series that are the bread and butter of touring theater companies, and the Rep's new production of *It's a Wonderful Life* boasts solid bookings for the

next two years. Perhaps equally important is the high caliber of the equity actors—professional, dues-paying members of the actors' guild—who have been persuaded to lend their skills to the Rep. Along the way, the company has spawned a small family of related theater groups, including the Young Rep, which specializes in new or experimental plays; the Colony, a summer residential playwriting workshop; Educational Outreach, which brings workshops to students of all ages; and Johnson's latest interest, a community theater project.

The Rocky Road to Success

The Montana Repertory Theatre was launched in 1967 as a student theater within the University's drama/dance department. According to Steve Wing, production manager and unofficial historian of the company, alumnus founder Firman "Bo" Brown intended from the start for the Rep to become a professional theater operating within the University's structure. Yet it wasn't until a decade later that the compa-



Kelly Boulware and Eden Atwood reinvent vintage icons James Stewart and Donna Reed.

ny, struggling to justify its existence and in danger of being defunded by the state arts council, finally achieved professional status.

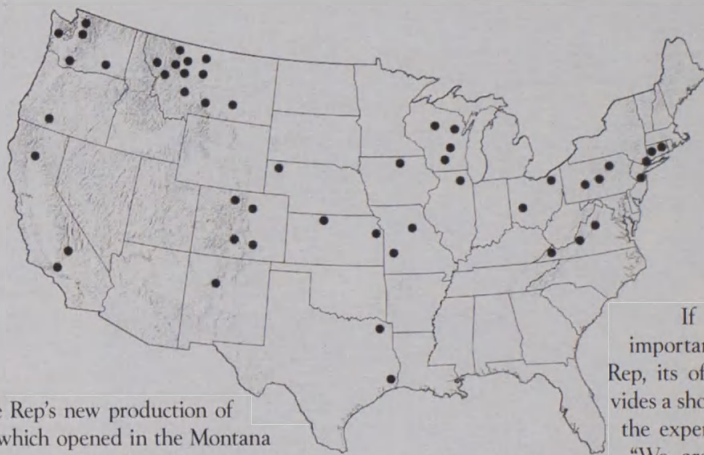
Newly appointed department chair James Kriley made the decision to go pro in 1977 in an effort to buff up the Rep's lackluster image, which had suffered—as all student companies do—from an inconsistency of talent from year to year. Kriley moved decisively to provide the company a reasonable operating budget and, with the help of a statewide task force, persuaded the Montana Legislature to provide a "program modification" to the tune of \$180,000 over two years. The money allowed the company to hire the professional actors, directors and set designers needed to attract paying audiences. For several years after it went pro, students were not directly involved in the Rep's productions, though now the company depends on graduates and undergraduates.

Kriley credits strong support from the Legislature, which awarded the company another grant in 1991, and the University administration for the Rep's survival and resurgence. It was Kriley, too, who as dean of the School of Fine Arts, hired Greg Johnson in 1990 and launched the company's modern era of crowd-pleasing productions and box office successes. Johnson had spent nineteen years in New York as a professional actor and director. He knew that if the Rep were to succeed financially, it would have to offer audiences something other than difficult, experimental drama.

Telling American Stories

It is emblematic of the Rep's philosophy that its most recent productions have offered powerful stories already well known as classic American movies. Filled with bravery, cruelty, despair, hope and sentiment, these plays also feature what used to be called, in a less cynical age, heroism. And they are sure-fire box office hits. The success of last year's *To Kill a Mockingbird* was "unprecedented," Johnson says. "It far exceeded our expectations—by thousands of people and thousands of dollars." *Mockingbird*, like the new production of *It's a Wonderful Life*, is quintessentially American, and Johnson makes no apologies for the popular appeal. "I think we've hit a very rich vein of ore here with these kinds of stories, especially in this day and age when we are all asking the question, 'What is the American character?' These are the stories we tell each other as Americans."

Johnson's conviction that there is an audience for "a good story well told" is born out by the repeat bookings. Says Kriley, "This company is dead tomorrow if the people who hire it don't call back. At the same time that the Montana Rep has been growing, over 60 percent of the touring theater companies have collapsed." Kriley credits Johnson for much of the success: "He's got great inventiveness, imagination and, just as importantly, a great business sense." Characteristically, Johnson passes the credit back to Kriley and to such people as teacher and set designer Bill Raoul and the students themselves.



◀ Tour of duty: Cross-country hot spots for the Rep. The tour lasts up to two years.

A Wonderful Life for the Actors

Talk to the people involved in the Rep's new production of Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* (which opened in the Montana Theatre in February before touring the nation) and you'll sense excitement. Kelly Boulware is a twenty-nine-year-old professional actor whom Johnson hired out of Seattle to play George Bailey. Despite the daunting prospect of reprising Jimmy Stewart, Boulware relishes the opportunity. "I haven't seen the movie in years," he says. "This is a new script that sets a new tone in the first ten seconds. It's going to be me fleshing out the details and living in the script."

His co-star, Eden Atwood, notes that the new adaptation remains a period piece set in the thirties and forties, yet she says, "I don't want my performance [as George's wife, Mary,] to appear dated, a caricature of Donna Reed. I want to give it a nineties' sensibility." Unlike Boulware, Atwood is a student, if a nontraditional one: Butte native and grand-



Members of the company load sets and costumes into the trucks before the tour.

daughter of Montana literary figure A. B. Guthrie Jr., she returned at age twenty-nine to UM to study drama, following a successful career as a television actor and jazz singer.

Yet even unpaid student intern Brendan Shanahan, who plays Mr. Welch and George Bailey's younger brother, Harry, is thrilled to have the opportunity to hit the road with the Rep. "It's a chance to work with people and learn things that you'd never get otherwise. My biggest fear for a long time was of screwing up *their* show," he says.

If mainstream shows are an important source of revenue for the Rep, its offspring, the Young Rep, provides a showcase for the avant-garde. "It's the experimental wing," Johnson says.

"We are very active doing Mamet, Shepard, Eric Bogosian, all the new plays out of New York. It was created to be an outreach company for Missoula. We play everywhere—in bars, at the Elks Club, at Fort Missoula. The avant-garde in me says not only is the material supposed to be different, but where you play should be different, too."

Students and community members who have ideas for shows are encouraged to produce them under the Young Rep's imprimatur.

Equally dear to Johnson's heart is the Colony, a playwriting workshop held on campus in June for the past three years, in which such playwrights as Pulitzer Prize-winner Marsha Norman gather with promising students for two weeks of intensive work. New on the Rep's horizon is a program that will visit Montana high schools, featuring three-day workshops that support and expand the training offered by local drama teachers. "We're creating a mobile stage, and we're getting ready to go," Johnson says. Then, like a kid planning a new treehouse, he confides yet another dream: a resident company for Missoula that would make use of the community's many actors, directors, lighting and set designers, and other theater professionals to produce classic American plays for presentation in larger venues. "But," he cautions, chuckling, "We haven't even had our first meeting yet, so there's no telling how it will turn out."

Ultimately, the game plan for the Montana Rep is to use its commercial success as a touring company to help finance these less commercially viable but valuable projects. If the past decade is any indication, that probably means live theater will play an even larger part in the cultural life of the state. **M**

Patrick Hutchins is a freelance writer based in Missoula.



Director Greg Johnson studies a final rehearsal.

A REAL-LIFE MOCKINGBIRD

When the Montana Rep presented *To Kill a Mockingbird* in Galax, Virginia, last year, the actors were disconcerted by the unusual silence that greeted them right from the beginning of the performance. Robert M. Gutierrez, one of the student members of

the company, remembers that despite a good performance by the cast, people failed to respond in the usual places. Members of the company feared they had finally found the ultimate bad audience, but like good show-business troupers, the actors labored on. At the end of the play they were sur-

prised and gratified by a resounding ovation. Only then did they learn that the town had experienced a brutal racial murder earlier in the year. In a completely unexpected way, Gutierrez says, the company had participated in the town's healing process.

PORTRAIT OF THE YOUNG ARTISTS



Kendra Bayer, who received her Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture last May, came to UM almost by accident. Visiting a museum in hometown Indianapolis with her parents, Bayer discovered a piece by Missoula artist Nancy Erickson. Bayer pursued the lead and found herself at UM's sculpture program.

"This has just been an incredible place for me to work," she says. "The program is wonderful, especially if you're self-motivated. I like the fact that it's small, and if you choose to get a lot of attention, you can."

During Bayer's years in Missoula, her figurative bronze and aluminum pieces grew bigger and started to tell a story largely influenced by her art therapy work with Alzheimer's patients. Many of the pieces feature perambulators, baby bottles, dressmakers' forms of the female torso—strong images of motherhood and childhood.

"My thesis show was titled 'Know Who You Are,' which came directly from my work with Alzheimer's patients," Bayer says. "Often the things that remained clearest for them were their childhood and their early parenthood. Holding a doll would trigger a powerful connection. That led me to look more closely at who we really are."

When Jee Kiat Wong transferred to UM in 1992 from Malaysia, he was an undergraduate majoring in radio and television. Now he's pursuing a master's degree in music.

"I'd always earned my living playing piano in lounges and dance classes," Wong says. "But I didn't take music seriously until I got here." The pianist credits Professors Jody Graves and Steven Hesla with motivating him to enter the graduate program in piano performance.

"They brought me to a stage I thought it was impossible for me to

Three Faces of Fine Arts on Campus Today

by Kim Anderson

reach," Wong says. "They have nurtured me technically and artistically, always keeping in mind my individuality as an artist."

After graduation this spring, Wong looks forward to a seven-country performance tour of Southeast Asia sponsored

by piano manufacturer Yamaha.

"I'll give workshops, perform, go into the community," Wong says, excited. "I think it's very important to go into the world at this point in my life. When you're a solo pianist, you end up spending most of your hours in a practice room. It's time for me to interact with other people."

David Pledge didn't have nearly as far to come when he entered UM's graduate program in ceramics. Originally from Great Falls, Pledge earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in ceramics at Montana State University and also held a residency at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena. Drawn to UM by the reputation of professors and ceramic artists Beth Lo and Tom Rippon, Pledge also chose Missoula to be closer to his daughter.

Another attraction for Pledge—whose huge, yet graceful, four-foot-tall urns are reminiscent of a distant, ancient culture—was the Anagama kiln, run by the University at Lubrecht Experimental Forest.

"The chance to work with that kiln was very important to me," Pledge says. "Each kiln is different, has its own personality, and I particularly wanted to work with wood firing when I arrived."

Exploring one more kiln personality, Pledge recently rebuilt a donated soda-salt kiln at UM. "A professor once challenged me to give something back, and rebuilding this kiln was a way to do that," Pledge says. "The kiln should be a good facility for the next ten years." **M**

Writer Kim Anderson lives in Missoula.

A WIDE RANGE

The Opera Theater Class Scales New Heights

by Meghan Howes

Devoted Montana opera lovers once traveled to far-away coasts and distant cities to see the real thing performed on stage. But thanks to UM's Opera Theater, professional performance now comes home.

"We're very fortunate not to have to go to Seattle or New York to hear good opera," says Missoula resident Sue Talbot, who has seen many an Opera Theater production over the years. "Those of us who love opera think it's extraordinary that productions of this quality exist in such a small town. There's really nothing else like it."

The Opera Theater treated Talbot and other music lovers to Mozart's *Così fan tutte* last year and staged Britten's *Beggar's Opera* in 1996. This spring the class works with the drama department to present Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's *Three Penny Opera*.

"Opera is theater and music combined," says UM Assistant Professor Stephen Kalm, who took over the class in 1994 from its longtime director, Esther England, and changed the name from Opera Workshop to emphasize the marriage of drama and voice. "I want the students to know how important both aspects are to making this form live and flourish. When you're performing operas, you can't just go out on stage and sing."

"You really need the stage experience," says Gretchen Munding, a sophomore in voice performance. "You learn how to use props and how to really get your point across—both to the audience and other actors—when singing in foreign languages." Munding values the opportunity to explore the behind-the-scenes world of production, learning to paint sets, block scenes and assist in directing.

Because of the ever-changing student body, vocal range, talent and interest vary each semester. Kalm chooses a production to best suit the available voices, usually opting for programs that feature scenes from different operas. "In a full length opera there's usually only one big soprano role," he says. "And I may have seven or eight talented sopranos who really aren't getting any experience singing arias or duets. A scenes program involves more students and allows them to study various roles."

This past fall the Opera Theater presented *An American Septet*,



A Night at the Operetta, an Opera Theater scenes program on stage in the Music Recital Hall in 1997.

seven pieces by composers as diverse as Gian-Carlo Menotti and Kurt Weill. At first glance the two composers seem unlikely companions, but Kalm points out that "both the writers were immigrants, the pieces were written in the same year, and they both represent different explorations into the American experience."

Voice student Lynette Badgley highlights another advantage to performing the diverse programs. "Doing these scenes enables the actors to look at so much repertoire," she says.

When the houselights dim in the Montana Theatre for *Three Penny Opera*, Kalm will see the

mutually beneficial marriage between Opera Theater and the drama department. "One of the things I'm proudest of is our collaboration," he says. "We use their designers, and in the fall we'll be doing a scenes program directed by second-year students from the master's program. [Opera] is now part of the directing students' curriculum."

When the late John Lester first assembled the Opera Workshop in 1939, he collaborated with the University Orchestra. When the singers went on tour, the orchestra went with them, a luxury no longer financially feasible. Budget constraints plague the program. "Because the Opera Theater is seen as 'only a class,' it's hard to get funding," Badgley says. The Opera Theater spends between \$1,000 and \$1,500 to produce a full-scale production, as compared with the drama department's budget of more than double that for a production.

Today the singers, committed to bringing opera to all corners of Montana, tour with only a few musicians. "We're really the main source for operatic entertainment in the state," Kalm says, and he credits community involvement with helping to defray the cost—parents and locals often provide food and lodging for the students, while sponsor fees bring in sorely needed income for each show. Kalm funnels the scant revenue back into the department for future productions.

Although Opera Theater can be a cacophony of details from tour schedules to costume fittings, callbacks to cutbacks, students and professors think it's worth it. "Somehow it all comes together," Kalm says. "You feel like you're really providing a service that people can't get otherwise. It's more than education; it's outreach. That is very satisfying." **M**

Meghan Howes recently earned her M.F.A. in creative writing at UM.

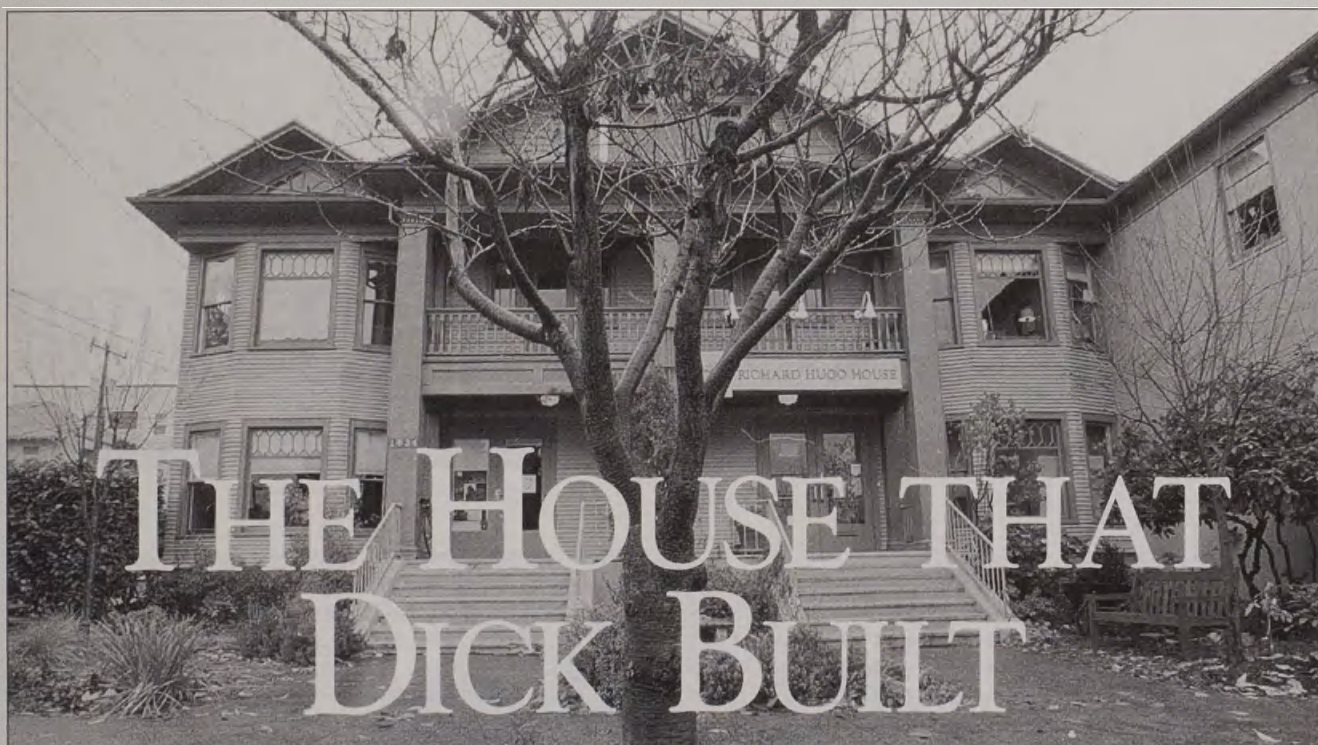


PHOTO BY KURT WILSON/MISSOULIAN

A Seattle Literary Center Honors UM's Poet Laureate

by Victoria Jenkins

For eighteen years Montana was home to poet Richard Hugo. During his tenure at UM, the Creative Writing Program attracted and fostered a well of talent, and Missoula acquired the somewhat unlikely distinction of being the Northwest Mecca for writers.

But Seattle claims the poet, too, as its own. Though Hugo grew up in the city's White Center neighborhood, it's his sense of place—the importance place holds for writers, not his geographic birthplace—that inspired the founders of a new literary center to give his name to their enterprise.

The Richard Hugo House is the brainchild of poet Frances McCue, writer and philanthropist Linda Jaech and fiction writer Andrea Lewis, who conceived the idea of a resource facility where storytelling in all its forms would be valued, encouraged and given a physical home. Writing, they believe, is "... one of the fundamental tools of our society... an important thread in the fabric of community." They envisioned a place outside the current publishing establishment where writers, readers and audiences of books, plays and films would find innovation, welcome and a sense of community.

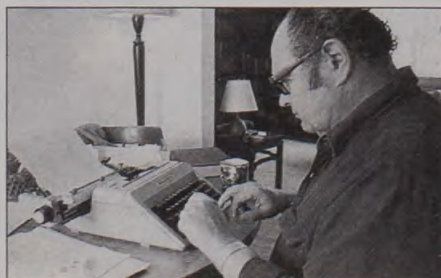
Recipient of astonishingly sizable gifts, grants, volunteer hours and community support, the Richard Hugo House is a reality. It's a sprawling frame building, newly remodeled and painted a moody gray, located in a funky Capitol Hill neighborhood where cruisers from the East Precinct prowls the streets. Built in 1908 as a four-unit apartment house, the structure also has served as a funeral home and most recently as the venue of the avant-garde New City Theatre.

Since its doors opened in fall 1997, the Hugo House has furnished services and opportunities to a range of groups and individuals. The extant theater and a newly created cafe/cabaret have provided space for the Fringe Theater Festival, the Seattle Poetry Festival, readings, signings and workshops. The facility has integrated with the under-served indigenous community, initiating programs designed to encourage local

children, seniors and non-native speakers, and with the university and arts communities, offering meeting spaces, a library, mentoring possibilities, internships and classes.

Though up and running, operating and evolving for more than a year, the Hugo House was dedicated officially only last October. At a three-day symposium titled "The Power of Place" writers and readers gathered to remember Richard Hugo. His poetry was read, films were screened, and food and drink shared. There were round tables, reminiscences and a bus tour to White Center. In tribute to a loved friend

Hugo at home: his typewriter now resides at the Seattle literary center, a gift from his widow, Ripley.



UM FILE PHOTO

and teacher and a venerated poet, a large contingent of Montanans journeyed west to lend solidarity to Seattle's newest literary venture—among them William Kittredge, James and Lois Welch, Annick Smith, Sandra Alcosser, Paul Zarzyski and Hugo's widow, Ripley, who brought the poet's typewriter and baseball mitt as gifts to the house.

It's rare that a nonprofit arts center can become so emphatically established, but the response to this one indicates that Seattle was ready for the Richard Hugo House. Executive director McCue is hopeful that a continuing exchange of talent and ideas between Seattle and Missoula will cement two of the places that Richard Hugo called home. **M**

Victoria Jenkins is a novelist and screenwriter and the mother of a UM alumnus ('97).

"A ROOM FULL OF

Visiting Instructor Karen Kaufmann T

by Maria Healey

During the last week of classes before Thanksgiving, in the ballet studio of the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center, a dance class becomes a room full of turkeys. UM Visiting Dance Instructor Karen Kaufmann has just directed her students to move like the big, generous birds. Men and women ranging in age from eighteen to fifty now create a spectrum of motion as varied as their attire, which runs from leotards to jeans, sweats to suits, a red kerchief bound around a head. With broad, percussive swings of the arms, some cradle invisible bounties while others sway their hands, march in place, slide, spin and, of course, waddle. The

ticipants: some are developmentally disabled, some suffer from cerebral palsy, some have been in debilitating accidents. Outside this classroom, these people struggle to navigate a world that does not make much room for disability. What they share here in the immense studio is movement.

Many dance alone. Hands rise in all fashions, out to the sides, high in the air, arcing in circles overhead, stretching skyward, fingers twitching. A man in a wheelchair named Lee waves his hands back and forth. Becka, a tall, vision-impaired woman, steps away from the group and dances in small circles the length of the studio. Barbara marches in groovy triumph beside the accompanist, bowing repeatedly to the young man after each piece. Dick, arms raised, likes the feeling of leaving his body, becoming "a tree, a bird or a goose." Kaufmann is pleased. The point of the class, she says, watching the students lose themselves in dance, is that they learn "not what's *right* in movement, but their *own* movement.

"Just about everybody can move in some way," she says. "I think people learn a lot about themselves through movement. They express themselves through movement and learn about the world, who they are, how they feel."

Having studied undergraduate dance at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, Kaufmann came to UM in the late seventies, leaving briefly to pursue graduate studies at Antioch College in Ohio. Since then the dancer, with colleague Amy Ragsdale, co-founded and now co-directs the Montana Transport Company (Mo-Trans), UM's professional dance troupe, which last



dancers perform a rich and surprising matrix of movement.

The class is called Teaching Dance for the Disabled, a course developed by Kaufmann in 1992 as a way of training her University dance students in teaching skills. Offered each fall, the class welcomes twenty par-

year performed Kaufmann's *Dancing Waters* in Finland, invited by the Dance and the Child International Conference.

Kaufmann's passion for bringing dance to a variety of populations led her in the eighties to Missoula public schools, where she taught a number of special education classes. There she faced a "creative

ROLLER COASTERS"

They Dance for People with Disabilities

challenge to find the ways a student can adapt and change and vary." This challenge inspired her to teach her University students how to introduce creative movement to diverse populations.

A partnership with Very Special Arts Montana, which enrolls the students with disabilities and provides transportation, Teaching Dance for the Disabled is a required course for UM dance students who want to teach. But Kaufmann also gets calls from all over campus—from wildlife biologists, for example, who wonder if this is something they can do. "And it always is," she says. "Anybody can walk in, having never had a dance class or having had years [of classes]."

In June 1997, professionalism in teaching and performance came together in *A Step Forward*. Presented on PBS, the short documentary, made by Gus Chambers of UM's Broadcast Media Center, follows the students through classes and into rehearsals, culminating in a public performance for a full house at Missoula's Front Street Theatre.

These days, Kaufmann divides her time between teaching classes and overseeing the teaching track, which educates dancers to work with several nontraditional dance populations, such as children, University beginners and the developmentally disabled.

"It's another important part of my work," she says. "To get dance to as many different populations as I can, to get more educators to realize the value of movement in the classroom as a learning tool."

"The key is in adapting dance to whatever population you have. Rather than expecting students to be at the level I want, it's up to me to use the language I know along with what they know and turn it into [performance]. It became clear that if I used my creativity, perceiving both consciously and unconsciously, subtly and instinctively, what they can do and how I could progress them, I could actually make something happen that nobody thought could happen, not that person, not me, not the general population."

"Karen's really skilled at teaching different populations," says Ragsdale, UM dance professor and choreographer. "She's flexible and ad libs on her feet. You have to do that, [teaching] the developmentally disabled. They're unpredictable, [taking instruction] in ways you don't



Visiting Instructor Karen Kaufmann (center) and her dance students.

expect. That ability to turn 180 degrees and go in another direction, because that's the way [an instruction] has been interpreted—Karen's very game for that kind of challenge."

Just as Kaufmann and her student instructors cultivate dance in students with disabilities, they also learn in this class new ways of dancing themselves. Delphine Rose, a senior who has taken the class twice, finds the work inspiring. "I love being a dancer, having seen these beautiful people dance," she says. "Professional dancers spend so much time on technique and getting things perfect. Because [the students with disabilities] don't have the full function of their bodies, they find other ways to create a movement. For people like me, who've been conditioned to move in a certain way, it's

a real eye-opener. I think, 'Oh, I can move *this* way.' They just really dance with their hearts."

"They embody something unaffected," Kaufmann says of these students. "There's an openness, an honesty with themselves, about where they're at, what they can do, and if something triggers their imagination or their creativity, they're very spontaneous."

As a closing exercise in the ballet studio, Kaufmann suggests that the dancers demonstrate a shape with their bodies, first a straight line, then a circle, finally a spiral. She hands out colored streamers, and the students cross the studio, dipping at the knees, whirling their arms, twirling the orange, purple and green fabric. Someone calls out that she feels like a roller coaster, and Kaufmann agrees. "A whole room full of roller coasters," she says, joining in the parade-like gaiety. Everyone is flushed and grinning.

"This class improves flexibility, coordination and balance," she says. "There's also the creative benefit of the students seeing themselves as having imagination."

Kaufmann looks out over the room, regarding the colorful roller coasters. "In a way, teaching this class has made me understand movement better, because it brings [dance] back to a very basic level. Some dancers think so much in terms of complex patterns. There's so much beauty in simplicity." **M**

Maria Healey, M.F.A. '92, lives in Missoula.



PHOTO CREDIT: DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA / DANCE ARCHIVES

COAT OF MANY COLORS

Christine Milodragovich Stitches It All Together Seamlessly

by Patia Stephens

The first time Christine Milodragovich designed the costumes for a play, *Whoopie-Ti-Yi-Yo*, back in 1989, the former home economics teacher was petrified.

"I was just as green as any student," Milodragovich says. "I gulped and said yes."

Now, after working on costumes for more than fifty productions, she's an old pro. She speaks of "building" costumes as if they were made of wood and nails instead of fabric and feathers and glitter and glue. This year she added another hat to her own costume: she became interim dean of the School of Fine Arts.

Milodragovich first came to UM in 1973 as a home economics instructor specializing in clothing and textiles. She had received her training at Washington State University,



where she worked as a teaching assistant while completing her master's degree.

"By the time I got out of grad school, I knew I wanted to teach," she says. "I enjoyed seeing the light bulb go on for people."

When offered the job in Montana, Milodragovich thought she'd stay two years, tops. Now she's celebrating her twenty-fifth anniversary at UM. She's made a few alterations along the way. Given the option of joining the School of Education faculty when home economics was phased out of the curriculum, she found herself instead drawn to the School of Fine Arts.

"What I had been teaching in home economics was closely related to costume design," she says, "so that was an obvious choice."

Milodragovich transferred her skills to theater—with a little tweaking. "As one example, in home economics I would give a lecture on stain removal. In theater I might teach students how to put stains on," she says.

◀ Costumes designed by Milodragovich for Titania and the fairies in UM's 1997 *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



◀ In the costume shop: "You become more aware of how students learn. You can help them move to the next step," says Milodragovich (left).

The transition was scary, she remembers, but also "incredibly invigorating."

Milodragovich immersed herself in the study of theater—sitting in on classes, attending departmental meetings and volunteering to work on productions. By the time the opportunity to costume *Whoopie-Ti-Yi-Yo* came along, she knew enough to get by.

"What I quickly found out was that I had a bag of tricks—a set of skills—that could be applied to theater," she says. "My knowledge about theater history and literature would take care of itself."

While she has learned the theatrical ropes, she also has worked her way up through the ranks of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, full professor, co-chair of the Department of Drama/Dance and, now, interim dean. She recently decided against throwing her hat in the ring for the permanent position, although she enjoys filling in this year.

The role of dean has given Milodragovich yet another set of skills to master. She's worked on complex projects such as faculty evaluations, donor development with the UM Foundation and course scheduling.

Colleague Randy Bolton describes Milodragovich as "highly respected and valued" by faculty, staff and students within the School of Fine Arts.

"I think she was chosen to be interim dean because of her fairness, her ability to listen and interact with people, and her flexibility," says Bolton, co-chair of the Department of Drama/Dance. "And she has proceeded in just that way. She has approached her work as dean in the same problem-solving manner that she has approached her design work and her teaching."

When asked if she misses teaching, the dean responds without hesitation: "Absolutely."

On a tour of the costume shop she shows off the giant dye vat, the industrial sewing machines, the baskets of color-coordinated thread. She stops to talk to a man at work on a rush sewing job for a play opening that evening.

"I really enjoy working in the costume shop,

side by side with students," she says. "It's different than going into a classroom. Because you're spending so much time together in the shop, you become more aware of how students learn. You can help them move to the next step."

Next door to the costume shop is one of several costume storage areas. Racks of clothing—vests, jackets, dresses—share space with dozens of black shoes, neatly lined up in row after row on wooden shelves. A set of curiously labeled boxes includes one named "bum rolls." Milodragovich demonstrates a bum roll, tying the white, sausage-shaped pillow over her backside, describing the Elizabethan dress that would be worn over it.

Milodragovich, who has designed costumes for everything from *Cabaret* to *A Little Night Music* to, most recently, *A Whale for the Killing*, enjoys the mental challenge of building costumes.

"Every show presents its own opportunity to be a good problem solver," she says. "You have to have that attitude of 'I think I can figure this out.' It really is invigorating to face a situation that you don't have a pat answer for."

Other qualities that make a good designer, she says, include a vivid imagination, the skills to carry out a vision and a passion for fabrics.

"You have to have a love of clothing and what clothing communicates to other people," she says.

The drawbacks to costume design are hard work and long hours, Milodragovich says, along with little public recognition.

"If you're excited about the end product, then that's your reward," she says.

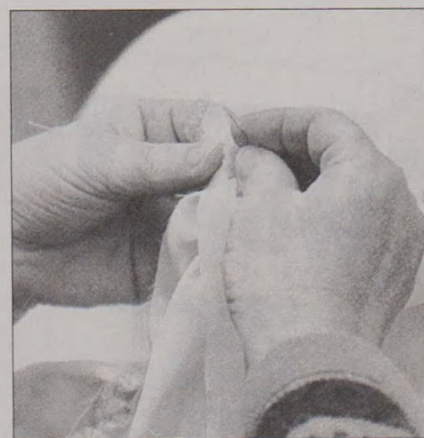
Design technology skills such as costuming, scene construction and stage lighting are in high demand. UM fine arts design/technology graduates have gone on to careers in film,

video, television, opera, ballet and theater. One of Milodragovich's former students landed a job with MTV in New York, while another became a costumer for the San Francisco Ballet.

When not building costumes or performing administrative duties, Milodragovich relaxes at home, designing and stitching quilts. She describes her quilting as based on traditional patterns but with innovations in color and texture.

"One of the things I've noticed... is that I always want a challenge for myself," she says. "That might be a design challenge, like playing with colors that appear unrelated; or it might be learning a new technique; or it might be learning background information that will inform my designs."

The featured artist in last year's Missoula Quilt Guild show, Milodragovich also co-chairs the planning committee for the guild's 2000 show.

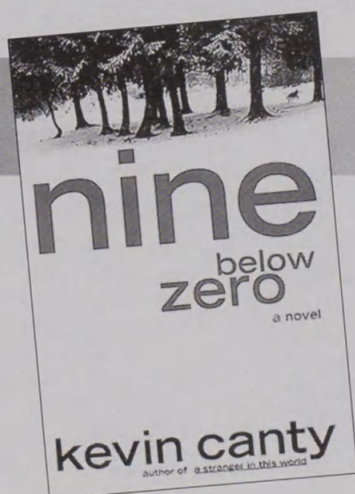


The busy dean looks forward to getting back to teaching and co-chairing the Department of Drama/Dance in the fall. She also relishes returning to the hands-on work of costume design.

"Routine drives me nuts," she says. "I like to explore as I go along. I like to ponder." **M**

Patia Stephens is currently pursuing a B.A. in journalism at UM.

by Susanna Sonnenberg



Nine Below Zero

by Kevin Canty '88, assistant professor of creative writing.

New York: Doubleday, 1999. 371 pp. \$23.95.

Everyone in Kevin Canty's second novel is trying to escape something. Justine has left behind the unbearable haunt of a dead child; her grandfather, a former senator, is deciding between death and life; and Marvin Deernose wants to be able finally to come in from the cold and live a meaningful life.

These people forge a wreckage, connecting in ways that don't so much bring them any closer but convey the sadness of being alive. Set in an unforgiving Montana winter, *Nine Below Zero* redefines cold and snow, hot springs and fire building, icy passes and half-empty bars and the "pleasant sense of shelter, anyway, of calm and order and work."

Canty knows his territory, both the topographical and the spiritual. After Marvin and Justine, almost strangers, have just cheated on her husband, Canty writes: "Now it was

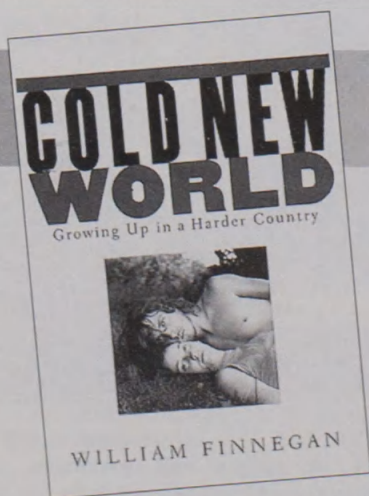


PHOTO BY LUCY CAPEHART

Sunday morning and an empty 1.75 liter bottle of Black Jack lay on the counter and a line of pale blue light glowed around everything. A lot of whiskey, Marvin thought. There was a blank place at the end of last night. It seemed like they had tried to have sex again at the end of the whiskey but he couldn't remember

how it had gone." Then Marvin steps outside into the "ragged snow" and regards the "red bark of the alders along the stream, the dirty gray foothills and then the mountains."

In prose that feels casual yet controlled, in dialogue that is terse and heavy with meaning, Canty takes us to the places his characters don't want to be, and this makes for a sorrowing sort of read, a low keening in the back of the reader's head, a pity for these people that is just and humane and riveting.



Cold New World: Growing Up in a Harder Country

by William Finnegan, M.F.A. '78.

New York: Random House, 1998. 421 pp. \$26.00.

Who are we now and what does this mean we will become? That is the complicated question William Finnegan investigates with his bravura reporting in *Cold New World*. In four marvelously in-depth sections he explores America's youth, a culture, he concludes, of drugs and casual violence, poverty and television, families sprung free of any classic definition.

Writing from a self-confessed position of peace, comfort and stability, the author makes himself at home with a young New Haven drug dealer, a pair of second-generation Mexican-American children, suburban white supremacists in Los Angeles and a small-town



PHOTO BY MARION ETLINGER

Texas drug world. Each of these lives, we discover, shares much more than expected. "Social mobility in America runs in every direction," writes the author. "And these days it does not necessarily run upward."

Finnegan's conclusions are neither the surprise nor the value of this book. *Cold New World* captures privacy. It takes us into living rooms, front seats, romances and prison cells that are fantastically intimate, worlds inaccessible to the rest of us. With dazzling surges of prose, Finnegan renders every detail of these lives with the combined ferocity of a beat reporter, private investigator and documentary filmmaker.

Except by Nature

by Sandra Alcosser, M.F.A. '82.

Saint Paul, Minnesota: Greywolf Press, 1998. 70 pp. \$12.95.

A dripping Louisiana is home for many of the rich and redolent poems in Sandra Alcosser's award-winning collection, *Except by Nature*. Even those poems set elsewhere or set nowhere steam with a milky swamp heat, seethe with a lavish cry.

In her opening section titled "Sugary Heat," the poems "Pole Boat on Honey Island" and "Azaleas" set a mood, a room, a stage—all inescapable—and the reader is drawn in by the suck and pull of Alcosser's luscious, palpable words. From the first poem comes this opening to the book:

The way he pushes deeper
into everything I hate—the heat rising
like wet crepe from silt to muck
to fill our lungs with its rotten breath.

This is followed by "Azaleas," a dense prose poem: "Night came on so strong there, the smear of color and funereal perfume, every bloom corpulent on flood and rain. My friend and I walked the Quarter eating butter pastry and oysters. Six feet tall, she glowed against the courtyard—Venus, a marble goddess, who tasted the world's saliva as if it were champagne." "We never touched," the speaker writes later in the piece. But the poet, who has given us the metallic champagne taste in our own mouths, knows otherwise. These poems quiver with touching, untouched and unspoken. This is the touching that words can do.



PHOTO BY PHILIP MACHLING

Words are fruit and meat in this book, flesh and sweat, thick soil, scented breasts. They are, under Alcosser's control, the vendors, the lovers, the dancers of language. *Except by Nature* is profoundly sensual. The second section, "Sweat," occupies itself more with introspection and denial, as one speaker, "stalled in traffic," sees herself in contrast to the "van of boys."

Then the book moves to the spare, dry Montana, the section titled "By the Nape" as understated as the earlier sections are dense. The "[g]ray cloud like a sweater pulled over the heart of the moon" is the tight feeling of night in "Skiing by Moonlight."

Often Alcosser's poems report, conveying someone else's narrative, bearing witness to the pains that make us human. The speaker gathers with a dead aunt, a dying grandmother or friends, as in "Michael's Wine."

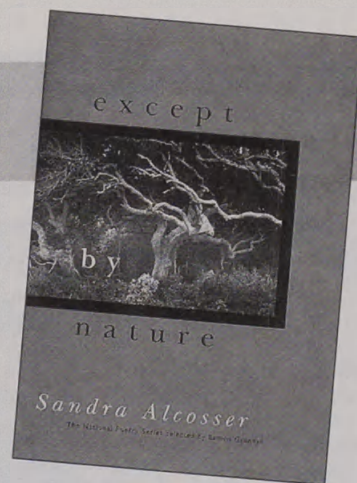
We toast ourselves, our safety,
time the brandied savory
of late November.

Then Michael starts to tell his own story of a killing and transforms the poem.

Alcosser concerns herself with these invisible moments, these quiet turnings from one mood to another. And while we the readers are still savoring the succulent words she's offered, we find that the world all around us has changed.

“Black coffee with thick cream, huge strawberries in a mahogany dining room. We hid from the heat and talked of dying—the flickering boats our fathers rode to the spirit world, the little hulls of morphine. As the air began to wave and drip, we walked the streets again, both dressed in white gauze with crisp straw hats, then wispy, drooping damp.”

— from "Azaleas"





Class Notes are compiled by Joyce H. Brusin, M.F.A. '85. If you would like to submit information, please drop a line to the Alumni Association, Brantly Hall, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812-0013. Or send your news via e-mail to: alumnote@selway.umn.edu



'30s

Class of 1939: Watch for your 60th class reunion May 13, 14 and 15, 1999.

JAY ELLIS RANSOM '34 writes, "I have sold my home of twenty-six years in The Dalles, Ore., and moved my entire writing office into a travel trailer in order to 'follow the sun.'" Jay spent sixty years as a field anthropologist in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest and published his research in journals of anthropology, Native American linguistics, folklore, education and archaeology. He also has worked as a technical writer for the missile and aerospace industry and has published four hundred feature articles in over 100 magazines. Of his numerous books, seven were published by Harper & Row. Jay fondly remembers that his first publication was a poem in UM's literary magazine, *Frontier*, accepted by editor and English department faculty member H. G. Merriam in 1933.

HAROLD G. "HAL" STEARNS '36 received the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees Award for his years writing and telling Montana history in newspapers and classrooms.

FLORENCE BAKKE-REIL '37 was named Missoula County Senior of the Year by Missoula Aging Services. She has donated more than six thousand hours of her time to area organizations.



'40s

Class of 1949: Watch for your 50th class reunion May 13, 14 and 15, 1999.

MARY KAY FICKES FORSYTH '40 is president of the National Association of Citizens' Crime Commissions. She is executive director of the San Diego Crime Commission and serves on the executive board of San Diego Crime Stoppers.

R. D. PETERSON '41 of Polson retired as a colonel from the U. S. Marine Corps. He rides horseback annually into the Bob Marshall Wilderness, accompanied last year by his son, grandson and nephew.



'50s

ORVILLE E. VINGE '52 retired after thirty-four years with Amoco Production Co. He lives in Arvada, Colo.

G. GEORGE OSTROM '53 and his son, ranger Shannon Ostrom, published a book of photos and stories, *Wondrous Wildlife: A Different Look*.

WARD A. SHANAHAN '53, J.D. '58, received the tenth annual William J. Jameson Award for Professionalism from the Montana State Bar.

ROBERT LAUMEYER '58, M. Ed. '61, published a book of poetry, *The Song of the Hunter*, with Watermark Press.

GLENN WHITTLE '58 returned from his home in England this summer to visit the United States after an absence of thirty-three years. "Everything seemed changed beyond recognition until we reached



Mary Kay Fickes Forsyth '40

Missoula," he writes. "Although changed, the campus seemed so welcoming that one wanted to get in a line and register for the fall term!"

EDWIN H. JASMIN '59 of Bigfork serves as vice chair of the Montana Board of Regents.

JOHN LEPLEY '59, M.Ed. '60, received the Montana Preservation Association President's Award for his work establishing and directing the Museum of the Upper Missouri and the State of Montana Museum of Agriculture, both in Fort Benton.



'60s

JAMES E. BARRETT '61, M.A. '90, has been reelected to the national council of the American Guild of Organists. He is organist and director of music for the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes in Spokane, Washington, where he manages the concert series, Music at Lourdes. James also serves on the Spokane Arts Commission and owns The Hymnary Press.

GUY CONNOLLY '61 retired from the USDA Animal Damage Control program following a thirty-five-year career in wildlife research. He received the 1998 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jack H. Berryman Institute for Wildlife Damage Management at Utah State University in Logan. Guy and his wife, **HELEN HANCOCK CONNOLLY** x'63, live in Lakewood, Colorado.

FELICIA HARDISON LONDRE '62 has been named to the College of Fellows of the American Theatre, one of fewer than 150 theater professionals to receive the honor in the last thirty years. Felicia has taught theater history and playwriting at the University of Missouri-Kansas City since 1978. She received UM's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1998.

DOROTHY MCBRIDE STETSON '62 teaches political science at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, where she has been on the faculty since the late 1960s. In July 1997 she became associate dean of the university's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. The second edition of her book, *Women's Rights in the U.S.A.*, was published by Garland Press in 1997.

—DAA—

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Nominate Someone Great!

Each year at Homecoming, The University of Montana Alumni Association honors outstanding alumni. Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards are individuals who have distinguished themselves in a particular field and who have brought honor to the University, the state or the nation.

The focus of this award is career achievement and/or service to The University of Montana. Up to six awards can be given annually.



All University alumni and friends are invited to nominate a graduate or former student for this award. Please call the Alumni Office at 406-243-5211 or 1-800-862-5862, to request a nomination form. Nominations must be submitted by April 9, 1999.



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Paul Eichwald '69

WILLIAM C. "BILL" BOETTCHER '63 of Polson spent the winter of 1997-98 with his wife, **TERI BABICH BOETTCHER** '68, at Ross Medical University on the West Indies' island of Dominica. "We are administrators for a medical test review program for graduates that assists them in passing the U.S. Medical Boards," he writes. "A fun gig that keeps us out of the cold."

GERALD R. ZACHARY '65 of Olympia, Washington, has retired from his job as the state's top banking regulator and formed a consulting company to provide community banks with a range of services, including bank/regulator mediation, strategic business planning and executive searches.

KEN W. HURT '66 received the 1998 "Bowl of Hygieia" award from the Montana Pharmaceutical Association for outstanding community service by a pharmacist. Ken is a former mayor of St. Ignatius, where he owns and operates Mission Drug and currently serves on the town council. Ken and his wife, Patricia, have two children.

RALPH POMNICHOWSKI '66 chronicled the histories of seventy-nine farm and ranch families across Montana who have managed to keep their agricultural properties in the same family for 100 years or longer. His account is available from the Montana Farmers Union in Great Falls.

ROGER TOWNE '66, M.A. '72, heads the Department of Communication Disorders at Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

PAUL EICHWALD '69 is senior vice president, financial consultant and branch manager in the Missoula office of D.A. Davidson and Co. Paul and his wife, **LINDA BOWERS EICHWALD** '77, have two children, Paul and Morgan.

JAMES D. HARRINGTON, M.A. '69, is president of the Butte Historical Society. He teaches part time at Western Montana College of The University of Montana, Dillon, and Montana Tech of The University of Montana, Butte. His article, "A Reexamination of the Granite Mountain-Speculator Fire," appeared in the Autumn 1998 *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*.

CAROL M. BROWN-MILLS '69 is one of 120 Minnesota teachers to receive a 1998 Golden Apple Achiever Award for teaching excellence. Carol teaches K-8 music at St. John the Baptist School in New Brighton. She credits her own philosophy of music education to the instruction she received at UM from Kurt R. Miller.

'70s

JAMES E. BAILEY '70 retired as chief psychologist of the Spokane Veterans Administration Medical Center in September. James will continue as a medical consultant to the Washington Department of Disability Determination Services in Spokane.

LARRY G. DOBB '70 of Great Falls retired from the Air Force Reserve as a lieutenant colonel in July, after more than twenty-eight years of active and reserve service. He works as a range technician for the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

MADILYN "SODY" BELL JONES '70 is serving a second

term on the Montana Arts Council. She lives in Billings with her husband, **JAMES L. JONES** '67, J.D. '70.

MICHAEL A. KILROY '70, J.D. '73, renewed his annual alumni association membership and writes from Tokyo, "I'm an attorney on active duty with the Air Force, serving as a circuit riding criminal trial judge. My circuit is the Pacific Rim."

PEARL YEADON MCGINNIS, M.M. '70, toured Scandinavia in July and August as a soprano soloist with the Missouri Chamber Players. She is director of the opera workshop at Southwest Missouri State

University, where, this past April, she produced and directed the premiere of the opera *Many Thousand Gone*.

LARRY R. PAYNE '71 works out of the U.S. Forest Service's Washington, D.C., headquarters, where he is assistant deputy chief for state and private forestry. Responsible for fire and aviation management, forest health protection, cooperative programs with state and community foresters, and partnerships with tribal governments, Larry began his career on the UM campus in 1970 as a hydrology assistant in the Kootenai,

ALUMNUS PROFILE

PASSION PLAY

by Maria Healey

Chris Evans likes drama, seven off stage. He levels his gaze and pauses for emphasis, conscious of the performance. "One thing I'm very big on—and this was passed down to me from UM—is passion for what you do, above everything. You can be committed to what you do. You can have all the technique, all the looks. Unless you love it" — here's the pause — "It doesn't mean squat." Evans gets his point across.

A 1995 drama graduate, Evans is passionate about theater, devoting himself as actor, producer, director and playwright. Having just directed an Eric Bogosian one-act for the Young Rep, of which he is associate artistic director, he is co-writing a new play titled *American Roulette*. This spring his company will produce the play, inspired by the recent spate of high school shootings, and he will direct.

As a sophomore Evans received attention for his performance of Bogosian monologues. "I've never been a starry-eyed fan of anyone before," says the married father of two. "Except this guy. I'm fascinated with people who take a look at the world and say, 'This is wrong.' Bogosian is a fearless social critic."

Evans came to UM originally as a radio/TV major but "kept drifting over to the drama building.

"I figured if I'm going to direct or act, I'd better know what I'm talking about," he



Chris Evans (right) as a sophomore in 1993's *You Can't Take It with You*.

says. "UM gave me the experience I needed. The program is one of the best." He credits the drama department with a fearlessness of its own, producing material that's considered controversial.

Evans himself seeks out provocative work. Recently, under the Young Rep, he wrote, produced and directed *The Other Side of the Road*, based loosely on the life and death of Sam Kinison. Before that he

mounted a one-man series of Bogosian monologues; he directed the Montana Players' 1995 production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, starring as the ill-fated McMurphy; and last year he played Farley Mowat in UM's premiere of *A Whale for the Killing*. Such credentials suggest a complex artist and a follower of passionate impulses.

Passionate theater is what Evans wants for the Young Rep, a vision he shares with his mentor, Greg Johnson, UM drama professor and director of the Montana Rep (see "Tour de Force," p. 12).

"We wanted to start something where anyone can come," Evans says. "Anyone can bring an idea and have the resources [to make it happen]. Students, professionals, artists, anyone from the area who wants to be involved with the fire, with the passion." He pauses. "There's something about this state and its artists that's stunning."



Timothy J. Kato '78



Henry Owen Worden '87

Flathead and Helena national forests.

KAY WITHERSPOON '72 has won the 1998 American Academy of Equine Art Founders' Award for her oil painting of a polo pony and rider. The award was presented to Kay at the International Museum of the Horse in Lexington, Kentucky.

ROBERT GRAVES "BOB" BAKKO '73 is president of the American Mental Health Counselors Association. He is a past president of the Montana Clinical Mental Health Counselors Association and has been the executive director of Northwest Counseling Centers, Inc. in Billings since 1984.

EILEEN FERRARI '73 received her Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from Mills College, near her home in the wine country north of San Francisco. She is at work on her second novel, a murder mystery set in Reno, Nevada, which is familiar to her from her fifteen years in the casino industry.

THOMAS M. FITZPATRICK '73 serves on the American Bar Association Board of Governors, where he represents Alaska, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Tom lives in Seattle and practices with the commercial litigation firm, Stafford Frey Cooper.

JENNIFER A. O'LOUGHLIN '73, M.S. '80, is a communications specialist for the American Association of Retired Persons in Montana. She lives in Dillon with her husband, Kenneth High.

LYNN MORRISON-HAMILTON '74 of Havre was appointed by Gov. Marc Racicot to fill a vacancy on the Montana Board of Regents.

MICHAEL FIORITO '76 counsels students at Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences, a private college preparatory school.

MARY LOGAN HASTINGS '76 returned to Missoula last fall to present a lecture and recital titled "Strauss,

The courtroom of the new law center at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii has been named in memory of Lt. Col. **KATHERINE M. KENNEDY** '76, J.D. '80, who served sixteen years as an Air Force attorney in the Judge Advocate General's Department. Kennedy began her Air Force career in 1980 as an assistant staff judge advocate at Loring Air Force Base in Maine. She died of cancer in 1997 at age forty-two. The dedication ceremony program reads: "Colonel Kennedy served in several highly selective positions and was greatly admired by many in the Department. Her presence will be missed and she will be fondly remembered."

Mahler, Schoenberg: Alexander Zemlinsky?" for UM's 1998-99 President's Lecture Series. Mary directs the undergraduate opera workshop at the University of Maryland in College Park.

JAY KOHN '76 is assistant news director and news anchor for KTVQ-TV in Billings.

GARRY SOUTH '76 managed the successful campaign of Lt. Gov. Gray Davis for governor of California. Garry has worked on campaigns for twenty-six years. He was special assistant to Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland during the Carter administration and served as communications director for Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste. Garry grew up in Miles City, and while at UM served as student body president and *Montana Kaimin* reporter.

MARY SUE SCHNEIDER ENGEL '77 was honored this past April with a Golden Apple Award for her third-grade teaching at Alkali Creek School in Billings. She and her husband, Jeff, have three children.

JANET FINN '78 published her book, *Tracing the Veins: Of Copper, Culture, and Community from Butte to Chuquicamata*, with the University of California

Press, Berkeley. An excerpt, "Intimate Strangers: The Interlocking Histories of Butte, Montana and Chuquicamata, Chile," appears in the Autumn 1998 *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, published by the Montana Historical Society. Janet teaches social work and anthropology at UM.

TIMOTHY J. KATO '78 is senior financial consultant in the Missoula offices of D.A. Davidson and Co. Tim and his wife, **DAWN MATULEVICH-KATO** '79, have three children, Logan, Dillon and Laurel.

JAMES E. LARCOMBE '78 has joined DADCO's corporate communications department in Great Falls as media and public relations coordinator.

W. DANIEL EDGE '79, M.S. '82, Ph.D. '85, is Mace Professor of Watchable Wildlife, a new endowed chair in the fisheries and wildlife department at Oregon State University in Corvallis. He represents the Northwestern states on The Wildlife Society Council.

SHARON McDONALD MORRISON, J.D. '79, of Whitefish has been elected a fellow of the International Society of Barristers. She practices in the firm of Morrisons, McCarthy & Baraban and has served as co-chair of the Women Members Committee of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

RUSSELL D. YERGER '79 has opened a law firm in Billings where he specializes in personal injury and commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and mediation/arbitration services.



'80s

JOHN BAKEN '80, M.F.A. '90, and his wife, M. B. Baken, returned to the United States in February 1998 after spending four years teaching in Tokyo. This fall John will teach English composition at St. Louis University, St. Louis Community College at Meramec and Belleville Area College in Belleville, Illinois.

H. MICHAEL JOHNSON '80 is vice president/investment officer for Dain Rauscher Investment Services in Salem, Oregon.

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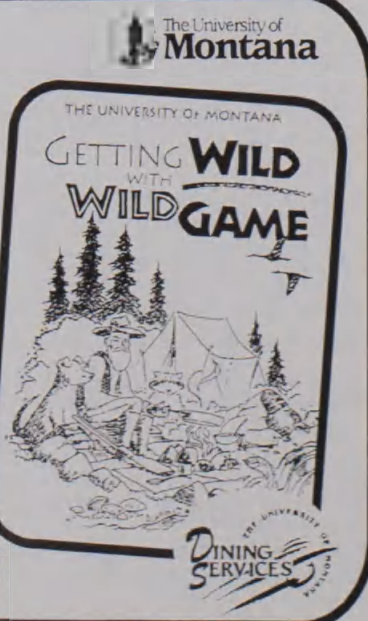
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BRIAN J. LANNAN '82 writes, "I am currently a Sr. Associate with PMA Consultants LLC, an international construction management consulting firm. My wife, Alexis, and I were blessed with our daughter, Lindsey Paige, on June 27, 1997. We enjoy living in Phoenix, although the growth over the past couple of years has been overwhelming. In our spare time we enjoy showing and breeding Lhasa Apso's. The enclosed photo was taken at the Southern California Lhasa Apso Specialty where our puppy bitch 'En Vogue at Lannan' took best puppy. Her father won Best of Breed at Westminster in February."

RANDA SIEGLE '80 was chosen Montana's Outstanding Technology Educator of the year by the Montana Council for Computers in Education.

JAMES BRUGGERS '81, M.S. '87, is spending the 1998-99 academic year as a Michigan Journalism Fellow at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He is a board member of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

R. SCOTT THOMPSON '83 and his wife, **JANET KEEFER THOMPSON '84**, send greetings from Tucson, Arizona, where they own and operate Arizona Health, a fitness consulting and advisory firm. "This year," they write via e-mail, "we'll be celebrating fourteen years of marriage and thirteen years of being business owners." Scott retired from strength and conditioning training in 1997 to become a consultant for corporate wellness. "We both miss our U of M days, but feel very fortunate that our U of M educations prepared us for where we are now."

VERLENA ORR, M.F.A. '84, published a chapbook of poetry, *Woman Who Hears Voices*, with Future Tense Press.

TAMMY L. LACEY '85, M.Ed. '91, is among sixty-one educators named as a 1998 National Distinguished Principal. Tammy has been principal of Fairfield Elementary since 1991.

SUSAN BROOKS SWIMLEY '86, J.D. '89, is chief deputy county attorney for Gallatin County. She lives in Bozeman with her husband, Brett, their son, Kurt, and daughter, Rachael.

HENRY OWEN "HANK" WORDEN '87, an investment executive for Edward Jones in Ephrata, Washington, was named Volunteer of the Year by the Columbia Basin Foundation for his work establishing twenty-four of the foundation's endowment and special project funds.

WILLIAM F. "BILL" BORCHERS '88 owns and operates his own marine service shop in Polson, where he and his wife, Brenda, live with their three daughters. In the Fall 1998 "Class Notes" we erroneously reported Bill to have spent the winter working for Ross Medical University in the West Indies. Our correspondent had confused Bill with another UM alumnus in Polson, **BILL BOETTCHER '63**. While fiction writing is a noble pursuit, we at "Class Notes" hope this will prove our last foray into it. We apologize to Bill and Brenda, and we wish them well in all their endeavors.

LINDA EICHORN '88 lives in Santa Rosa, California,



Frank D'Angelo '90



Emily Hazelton Wells '92

with her husband, Tom Laudari.

MATT JORE '88 joined with his father and brother to found Jore Corp., a manufacturer of hand-tool and power-drill accessories, shortly after his graduation with a degree in political science and economics. Today the firm employs 310 people in Lake County and received a Sears "Partner in Progress" award last year for its marketing performance, quality of production and quality of vendor service.

JERRY PAULSON '88 lives in Iowa, where he has just completed the Doctor of Chiropractic program at Palmer College of Chiropractic. He hopes to move to Arizona with his family.

MURLAND SEARIGHT, J.D. '88, celebrated fifty years of marriage to his wife, Virginia, in September. Murland's legal practice, created after his graduation from law school at age sixty-three, has been almost exclusively pro bono publico for Montana Legal Services. He and Virginia travel extensively in their leisure time, including trips to Kenya, Egypt, Israel, New Zealand, Japan and India.

WALTER R. MURALT '89 is general manager of Muralt's Travel Plaza outside Missoula. He is chair of the government affairs committee for NATSO, Inc., the national organization representing America's travel plaza and truckstop industry, and represents Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington on NATSO's board of directors.

TRACI RASMUSSEN '89 has returned to practice in Missoula after obtaining a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Western States Chiropractic College in Portland, Oregon.



'90s

FRANK D'ANGELO '90 and his wife, Rae Lynn McCarty D'Angelo, live in Missoula, where Frank is senior financial consultant at D.A. Davidson and Co.

MATTHEW COOPER '92, J.D. '96, writes, "I was in private practice in Missoula until this summer. Now I am a first lieutenant in the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps. After finishing my basic course at the JAG School at the University of Virginia School of Law, I will be permanently assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington."

AMY ELIZABETH HARPER '92 received a Fulbright Student Award to spend the 1998-99 academic year in Berlin, Germany, researching her dissertation, *Belonging in Germany: Constructions of German Identity in Immigration Discourse*. Amy is a doctoral student in anthropology at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Laurie Ann Jerin '92, M.A. '95, attends the LaFollette Institute for Public Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is studying for a master's degree in policy analysis.

CHRISTINE MITCHELL '92 graduated in June from the

University of Washington School of Medicine. She lives in Spokane, where she is in the first year of a residency in family practice.

LISA A. RODEGHEIRO '92, J.D. '95, and **WILLIAM JOHN SPEARE, J.D. '94**, were married in Billings in June. Lisa is with the Brown Law Firm and Bill is with Moulton, Bellingham, Longo and Mather.

EMILY HAZELTON WELLS '92 directs regional sales for Promus Hotel Corporation in Vancouver, Washington.

MATTHEW P. GRUPP '93, J.D. '96, received a LL.M. from New York University in 1997 and is a tax attorney with Deloitte and Touche in Los Angeles.

MATTHEW JONES '93 received his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and is an attorney with the firm of Brickfield, Burchette and Ritts in Washington, D.C. He is the son of **JAMES L. JONES '67, J.D. '70**, and **MADILYN "SODY" BELL JONES '70**.

CASEY ANNE KRILEY '93 premiered her film, *A Rock and a Daisy*, in June at Missoula's New Crystal Theatre. Casey wrote, directed, co-produced and edited the twenty-six-minute film for her master's thesis at Cal Arts in Los Angeles. Casey is the daughter of James Kriley, former UM dean of fine arts, and **MARY KRILEY, M.B.A. '93**.

TYLER M. NOBLE '93 is vice president of Bigelow & Company, an investment banking firm in Denver.

WILLIAM R. BARBER '94 was presented with the "Wings of Gold" and designated a naval aviator while serving with his training squadron at the naval air station in Meridian, Mississippi.

GREGORY J. FINE '94 manages state and federal relations at the Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition in Washington, D.C.

JANET SKESLEIN '94 will spend this year teaching English conversation in Mulhouse, a city in the Alsace-Lorraine region of France.

CHANDLER P. "CHAD" THOMPSON '97 set out on the Appalachian Trail in northern Maine on February 14, 1998, and emerged 2,168 miles later on July 7 near Dahlonega, Georgia. Accompanied by his dog, Kassidy, Chad realized his dream of a "through-hike" on the trail in five months, instead of the usual six. He averaged eight to ten miles a day at the beginning but had shaped up to twenty to twenty-five miles a day by the last one thousand miles. Chad entered law school at the University of Georgia in August.



JEANA-MARIE FIUMEFREDDO '95 studies in the Master of Divinity program at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

JANE P. MAKICH '95 works for the prints and photos division of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., where she coordinated the collection of Depression-era farm photos on the library's Web site at memory.loc.gov/amem/

fsowhome.html. The collection of more than forty-seven thousand images, titled "America from the Great Depression to World War II: Photographs from the Farm Security Administration-Office of War Information 1935-45," includes photos from Fairfield, Glasgow, Butte and other Montana communities.

LISA K. VANEK '95 received a master's degree in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University. She hopes to pursue a career assisting employees of companies that face mergers, acquisitions and downsizing.

ELIZABETH KRAFT '96 received her commission as a naval officer after completing officer candidate school in Pensacola, Florida.

GILLIAN B. GLAES '97 writes from the University of Oregon in Eugene, where she is studying for a master's in European history with an emphasis in migration and nationalism. "I'm happy to report that I survived my first year and even did fairly well. I taught discussion sections for world history and western civilization, which proved to be a challenging experience, but I loved it! . . . And although I've enjoyed being a Duck, I'm still a Griz at heart!"

KATHLEEN JONES '97 was among students from 105 colleges and universities who participated in the 1998 Hearst Journalism Awards Program. Now an employee of KULR-TV in Billings and KFBB-TV in Great Falls, Kathleen placed twelfth in the television category.

AMY MILLER '97 is in her first year of full-time teaching at Missoula's Big Sky High School. Accompanied to class by her service dog, Ashke, Amy teaches freshman English, yearbook and two English classes in the school's alternative learning center.

CURTIS NELSON, M.B.A. '97, is a finance and tax manager for Town Pump Corporation in Butte.

ROCHELLE OHMAN '98 is a first-year student at the

University of Washington School of Medicine.

IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Office extends sympathy to the families of the following alumni, friends and faculty:

ETHEL B. BROCKWAY GRIEVE '22, Redmond, Wash.

MARY L. NICOL x'24, Missoula

ESTHER SIMON '24, Carmel, Calif.

W. H. SWEARINGEN x'26, Clinton

MARY JOE DIXON HILLS '27, Baltimore

ERME ASKINS '28, Honolulu

MARJORIE LOUISE LEONARD '29, Gwynedd Valley, Pa.

GEORGIAN M. ECKLEY ALLARD x'30, St. Ignatius

MARGARET JEAN "PEG" PUNNETT '30, Chico, Calif.

RYLAND WALFORD '30, Missoula

VERA LOUISE ANDERSON '31, Laurel

WALTER B. "JUNIOR" DEAN III '31, Forsyth

MYLES F. FLOOD '31, Missoula

MARY KINNIBURGH SHEPARD '31, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

DOROTHY LEE STARK '31, Longview, Wash.

DOROTHY RAWN WESTFALL '31, Glendale, Calif.

HAZEL AMELIA LARSON ANDERSON '32, Helena

NEMESIO C. BERGE '34, Walnut, Calif.

WILLIAM A. DISBROW x'34, Milltown

PETER MELOY, J.D. '36, Helena

WILLIAM B. AHDERS '38, J.D. '41, Midland, Texas

VIVIAN HANSEN '38, Billings

IRA A. KOPELMAN x'38, Ronan

KATHRYN R. AGLER '39, Kalispell

FLORENCE SKOGEN DESCHAMPS '39, Missoula

JULIA "JUDY" ARMSTRONG JOHNSON '39, Belt

JAMES F. SPELMAN '39, Red Lodge

ROBERT BAKER YOUNG '39, Denver

MANZER J. GRISWOLD '40, Seattle

MARY A. HANSEN '40, Benicia, Calif.

WILLIAM DAVID JAMES '41, Great Falls

ROBERT E. NEWCOMER '41, Boise, Idaho

MARY JEAN YARDLEY SALMON '41, Livingston

JAMES E. SHORT '41, Dillon

HELEN HOLLOWAY VOELKER '41, Billings

HAZEL HAYDEN WILSON '41, Kingsport, Tenn.

GLEN B. NELSON '42, Ferndale, Wash.

STEVEN A. HOLLAND '44, Portland, Ore.

MARIAN HOGAN MCGREEVY '44, Billings

JOHN J. MCQUIRK x'44, Kalispell

NEAL A. RASMUSSEN '47, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

WILLIAM S. MATHER, J.D. '48, Billings

GERALD J. SALINAS '48, Charlo

C. GEORGE FORSYTH '49, Great Falls

KENNETH W. SKEMP '49, Dallas

LOIS M. TOPLARSKI '49, Butte

STANLEY EMORY WAYMAN '49, Billings

L. ROBERT JAMES '50, Sun City West, Ariz.

ALVHILD J. MARTINSON, M.Ed. '50, Missoula

W.O. "BILL" NOLAN '50, Hamilton

EDWARD EUGENE "GENE" SHAW x'50, Missoula

JOHN D. WEBSTER '50, Wrentham, Mass.

THOMAS J. CORBETT '51, M.Ed. '54, Mulino, Ore.

LESLIE P. DONOVAN '51, Las Vegas

VIRGINIA "GINGER" BROWN FOSLAND x'51, Scobey

NORMAN C. ROBB, J.D. '51, Missoula

DALE R. TASH '51, Dillon

PETER. M. TEIGEN '51, Teigen

OSCAR H. BIEGEL '52, Harlowton

JANE E. GAETHEKE BRANDT '52, Milwaukie, Ore.

ROBERT "LEFTY" BYRNE '52, Laurel

JOE O. LUCKMAN '52, Cascade

LESTER M. ORMISTON '52, Kalispell

MARILYN J. GILLETTE HAUGE '53, Missoula

SAMUEL SHERADSKY, J.D. '53, Miami

ERIC SKIBSTED '53, Missoula

BEN J. WUERTHNER '53, Springfield, Va.

HARRY W. GRIFFITHS '54, Boise, Idaho

FLOYD C. MILLER '54, Bellevue, Wash.

CHARLES L. COURCHENE '56, Allen, Texas

FRANK HARLEY DIENER '56, Billings

McKINLEY T. ANDERSON JR., J.D. '58, Bozeman

RICHARD A. JONES '58, Great Falls

JAMES D. WEAVER '58, Stedman, N.C.

DONALD E. WISER '58, Billings

KENNETH M. EIDE '59, Billings

ROY W. MATTSOON '59, Missoula

HAZEL JEAN POLICH BLAKELY '60, Missoula

ARTHUR W. AYERS '61, Medford, Ore.

ROY BUFFALO, M.Ed. '61, Laurel

KENNETH W. MILLER '62, Portland, Ore.

WALTER R. WINSLOW '62, McKinleyville, Calif.

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 ROBERT C. PATTERSON '70, Vancouver, Wash.
 JAMES L. TILLOTSON '71, J.D. '76, Ballantine
 DOUGLAS J. HANSON, M.S. '75, Polson
 KATHERINE M. KENNEDY '76, J.D. '80, Chicago
 MICHAEL W. FAIRCHILD '78, Kalispell
 ROBERT PAUL BOWERS '79, Polson
 THOMAS M. DWYER '81, Missoula
 PAUL M. HOMUTH '81, Missoula
 LAUREL SUE PATTON DALTON '85, Shelley, Idaho
 KURT ARLO OSEN '88, Glasgow
 WARREN S. BARCE, M.B.A. '89, Havre
 ROBERT W. "ROBBIE" HURLY JR. '90, Glasgow
 MORRIS BROWN MYEROWITZ '94, Bonner
 BRIAN KEITH FLESHMAN '95, Missoula
 DONNA RAY GOODMAN, M.I.S. '95, Great Falls
 JENNIFER CHERISH HENDERSON '95, Marion
 KEN BYERLY, Lewistown

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 BETTY MARIE RIDNOUR, Polson
 HULDA SMITH, Kalispell
 DR. VERNON F. SNOW, Jamesville, N.Y.
 GORDON P. SUMMERS, Missoula

In Fall 1998 JAMES W. SPANGELO, J.D. '76, of Havre was erroneously listed as "deceased." We sincerely apologize to James and his family for any distress and inconvenience this may have caused.

In Memoriam requires a printed newspaper obituary or a letter of notification from the immediate family for names to be included.

BIRTHS

Rebecca Emily to DAVID ANDREW GOLDFARB '78 and Beth Rochelle Gabai Goldfarb, August 4, 1998, in Cleveland.

Augustus Alfred to JOHN BAKEN '80, M.F.A. '90, and M. B. Berger Baken, August 9, 1998, in St. Louis.

Chandler Wallace to Maj. GLENN J. BARR '86 and Janet Barr, August 21, 1998, in Fort Irwin, Calif.

Rachael Anne to SUSAN BROOKS SWIMLEY '86, J.D. '89, and Brett Swimley, May 4, 1998, in Bozeman.

Shay Matthew to DARCY ANNE FIELD DANTIC '91 and MATTHEW CRAIG DANTIC '91, June 14, 1998, in Billings.

NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERS

CYRUS AUSTIN '55, Corvallis, Ore.
 DONNA BRYGGMAN '48, Salinas, Calif.
 JAMES R. COMSTOCK '75, Pacifica, Calif.
 THOMAS DEBOER '85, Spokane, Wash.
 RAYMOND DVORAK '81, Rapid City, S.D.
 JOSEPH G. MARRA '77, Seattle
 JUNE MCPHAIL '43, Phoenix, Ore.
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In 1967 Sheila Skemp was a member of the UM Spurs and a resident of the Brantly Hall women's dorm.



COMING HOME

by Joyce H. Brusin

In 1997 Sheila Skemp '67 returned for Homecoming and stepped back into a UM classroom. History professors Kenneth Lockridge and Anya Jabour invited Skemp to speak to students in history and women's studies about Judith Sargent Murray. "She was the closest thing to a feminist in her day," says Skemp of the eighteenth century poet, playwright and novelist, who moved from New England to the early colonial settlement of Natchez, Mississippi, near Skemp's present home. Now a full professor of history at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Skemp's interest in colonial and revolutionary America began when she studied with former history Professor Jack Van de Wetering at UM.

Skemp was keeping with family tradition when she chose the Missoula campus. Her father, Kenneth W. Skemp '49, graduated with a degree in history and political science. Her mother, Lucy Leet Skemp '42, graduated in education.

"The University of Montana proved to be the ideal place for me," says Skemp. "It was a very nurturing environment. I wouldn't have continued my education if it hadn't been for the encouragement of the faculty there."

"When I entered the graduate program at the University of Iowa my professors were amazed at the background and knowledge I had in history," she says. Skemp completed her doctorate at Iowa in 1974 with a dissertation titled *A Social and Cultural History of Newport, Rhode Island, 1720-1765*.

Skemp began teaching at the University of Mississippi in 1980, after stints as visiting professor at universities in Connecticut, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Iowa. Her teaching and research have won her numerous honors. In 1985 Skemp's colleagues and students named her the school's first Outstanding Teacher in Liberal Arts, and students in the campus chapter of Mortar Board selected her as Outstanding Faculty Woman for 1990. Since 1998 she has directed the University of Mississippi's Sarah Isom Center for Women.

Outside the classroom Skemp has made her research available in three recent books. Two of them examine the lives of the American revolutionary Benjamin Franklin and his son William, who chose to remain loyal to the British side. *William Franklin: Son of a Patriot, Servant of a King*, was published in 1990 by Oxford Press; *Benjamin and William Franklin: Patriot and Loyalist, Father and Son*, appeared in 1994 from Bedford Press. A third book, *Judith Sargent Murray: A Brief Biography with Documents*, was published last year by Bedford.

Skemp's Homecoming visit left her time to look over the UM campus and reminisce. "I was incredibly impressed with the changes on campus—both the physical changes and the intellectual atmosphere. Students came to a lecture the afternoon of Homecoming and they asked good questions. I saw how they interacted with one another at the University Center," she says. "I loved UM in 1967, but I think I would like it even more now." **M**

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Don Oliver '58 brought three decades of broadcast news experience back to UM this year.

DON OLIVER REPORTS BACK

by Joyce H. Brusin

In thirty-three years as a broadcast journalist in radio and television news, Don Oliver '58 reported on conflicts in Southeast Asia, the Exxon-Valdez disaster in Alaska, Egyptian-Israeli peace talks and political conventions in the American heartland. No matter how far he roamed, however, the Billings native was always glad to return to his home state. When he turned to environmental reporting in the '80s, Oliver covered stories in Montana whenever he could. He brought issues such as clear-cutting in national forests, the acquisition of new wilderness areas and the infamous Berkeley pit in Butte to the attention of the NBC News national audience.

Every chance he got in those years, Oliver returned to visit his alma mater. "I have an association with the University that transcends being an alumnus," Oliver says. "I've kept in touch, returned regularly at Homecoming and have known most of the deans [of journalism] over the years." Last summer, Interim Dean Joe Durso asked Oliver if he would consider teaching fall semester. Though other commitments initially made Oliver hesitant, when Durso died suddenly, Oliver decided to come back to teach what he knows best. "I got a good education here," he says. "I felt I wanted to pay something of that back."

This fall Oliver taught a senior seminar for print journalists in ethics, standards and practice, as well as a beginning broadcast writing and reporting class for sophomores. Montanans have shared in the fruits of his third class, Broadcast Newsroom I, by tuning in to the program "Montana Journal," broadcast on Montana Public Television in November, January and February. Students produced documentary segments for the program on the Montana economy, the state's working poor, the National Bison Range, shelters for victims of domestic abuse, violence in Montana schools and the prostitution museum in Butte. "The program is a mix of hard news and features," says Oliver. "The students get practical experience on the air. With advice from faculty, they write, shoot and edit everything."

When Oliver graduated from UM, television news was still in its infancy in Montana. His first job at KXLJ in Helena allowed him to write copy and announce while catching up on the technical innovations of the day. He moved on to other stations in the West before accepting a scholarship from NBC News to attend the prestigious Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. After graduating with his master's degree in 1962, Oliver returned to broadcasting as a principal newscaster or news director for network affiliates in Washington and California. In March 1966, NBC asked Oliver to join its Cleveland bureau and cover the American Midwest.

Oliver covered peace marches, civil rights marches and the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago before moving to Tokyo in 1973 to spend two-and-a-half years covering conflicts in Laos, Vietnam, Korea and Cambodia. In 1985, in the middle of the decade he devoted to environmental reporting, Oliver received UM's Distinguished Alumni Award. Before leaving NBC in 1991, he covered the Persian Gulf War from American military bases in Germany.

Since then, Oliver has served as a consultant for newsmaking organizations looking for better relations with the media. "I teach them how the media work and what their responsibilities as newsmakers are versus the responsibilities of the reporters covering them," he says. Oliver returned to television news briefly in 1996 for a four-month stint at MSNBC.

Having had an opportunity to watch his profession grow since the '50s, Oliver believes that the biggest change in television news results from the increasingly complex technical capabilities. "The technology exists to provide live coverage from anywhere in the world, but the rush to be first on the air with that coverage has robbed television news of its ability to reflect," he says. "The opportunities that television presents to meld pictures, sounds and images together to tell a story are being squandered. The amount of raw information available has greatly increased, but it's questionable whether the medium of television is being used to its best advantage." **M**

Ten Student Teams Capture the Spirit of Investment



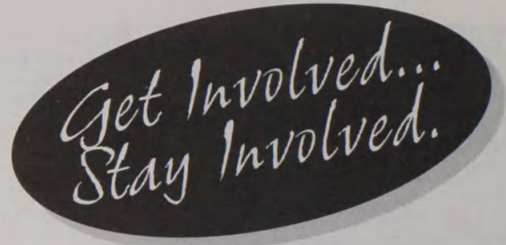
Each year, students at colleges and universities in four states square off in a spirited investment and portfolio management contest sponsored by D.A. Davidson & Co. Using \$50,000 provided by DAD and coached by one of the firm's Financial Consultants, the teams strive to build a winning investment line-up. There are more than bragging rights on the line. Each school shares a large portion of the profits earned by its student investment team. Through this unique program, DAD has donated more than \$60,000 to participating schools.

In the most recent contest, a team from the University of Montana-Missoula, coached by DAD Financial Consultant, Philip Perszyk, bested its opponents with an overall gain of 12.49 percent. Other participants are Montana State University-Bozeman; Montana State University-Billings; Carroll College-Helena; University of Idaho-Moscow; Boise State University-Boise; Washington State University-Pullman; Gonzaga University-Spokane; University of Utah-Salt Lake City; and Brigham Young University-Provo.

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

The University of Montana Alumni Association welcomes new officers and new board members* to its 1998 board.

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EMMA LOMMASSON GRAND MARSHALS IN STYLE

by Joyce H. Brusin

Emma Bravo Lommasson '33, M.S. '39, was a familiar face to many who lined Missoula streets to watch the 1998 Homecoming parade in October. Serving as Grand Marshal gave Lommasson a chance to spot and greet some of the generations of students who passed through her office in the fifty years she served the University. Before she retired in 1977, Lommasson had been teacher, departmental assistant and University registrar. For ten years after her retirement she volunteered time as an academic adviser. "All those years it was the young people who made it such a wonderful experience for me," she says.

Lommasson's Italian-born parents immigrated to Sand Coulee, where Emma was born and raised. After graduating from Centerville High School in 1929, she moved to Missoula where she worked her way through UM, earning a bachelor's degree in math sciences in 1933. She taught at schools in Sand Coulee and Centerville until 1937, when she returned to UM as secretary and assistant to math department Chair N. J. Lennes. Lommasson continued to study and completed a master's degree in math sciences in 1939. "Some people remember me from the years I taught in the math department," Lommasson says. "I taught one course every quarter. One quarter when Doctor

Lennes was on leave, I taught his full load of courses."

Lommasson continued to teach as UM's enrollment dipped during World War II. "The math department chair, Doctor A. S. Merrill, had coordinated with the armed services to bring the College Training Detachment to campus," Lommasson recalls. "We trained young men who were in the Air Force and on their way to becoming pilots. From 1941 to 1943 they came to campus in groups of 1,000 at the beginning of each month. We taught them geography, history, physics and math. Each group stayed three months before shipping out." At the end of the war



Emma and driver Russ Francetich get in line alongside the UM marching band to lead off the 1998 Homecoming parade.

in 1945, Lommasson became veterans' adviser at UM and the University's assistant registrar. She eventually became registrar/associate director of admissions and records, continuing in that post until she retired in 1977.

UM President George Dennison '62, M.A. '63, was a student during Lommasson's years as registrar. "She took a great interest in students and helped many of us in so many different ways," Dennison remembers. "She helped us to realize our potential and to try to achieve it."

"Emma is both a gracious lady and a very talented administrator," current UM registrar Phil Bain says. "She went the extra mile for hundreds and hundreds of students and faculty during her years as teacher and registrar."

"After so many years there, the University continues to be my life," Lommasson says. She never misses a Grizzly football or basketball game and holds season tickets to the ASUM Performing Arts Series. "I want to know what young people are interested in. It might not always be what would interest me, but I like to keep up," she says. Having seen so many changes at UM, Lommasson's philosophy about keeping up with the rest of the world is simple: "I've learned that I don't have to walk fast; I just have to keep walking."

UPDATE FROM MONTANA EDDY

by Joyce H. Brusin

The last issue of the *Montanan* told of the continuing search to unearth Montana Eddy, author of historic UM classroom graffiti. He has revealed his existence—but not his identity—to the UM Alumni Association. Eddy responded to our article by again writing to Alumni Association Director Bill Johnston, postmarked November 16, 1998, in Detroit.

"As always the experience I received from the U of M comes into play every day and sometimes the education," he wrote. The approach of the annual Griz/Cat football game in November apparently emboldened Eddy. "I

would like to humbly inquire about some accommodation for the game?" he wrote. "With that, might I inquire about a parade or maybe Montana Eddy Day?" Eddy eventually revised his requests into more easily attainable honors.

Unfortunately, we still can't respond to Eddy as we have no way of contacting him. Please let Bill hear from you once more, Eddy, and this time leave a P. O. Box, e-mail or other address. Remember to repeat some of your more reasonable demands. We need to be certain of your identity!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS GRAND PRIZES

by Joyce H. Brusin

The UM Alumni Association capped off its fall membership drive in December by awarding long-awaited grand prizes. The 1998 football season had seen the unveiling of the new alumni membership tent at out-of-town games and select home games. Alumni and friends who registered at the tent received a free tailgate button and information on the benefits of joining the Alumni Association as dues-paying members. They also became eligible to win free Grizzly performance wear, stitched especially for the Alumni Association by Missoula's Sun Mountain Sports. "Grizwear" awarded after games this season included numerous windshirts, jackets and hats with Grizzly colors and logos. In addition, friends and alumni who joined the Alumni Association as dues-paying members by November 21 became eligible to win this December's grand prizes—a first prize of \$1,000 cash and a second prize of tickets and travel expenses to the 1999

Griz/Cat football game.

On December 16 in Missoula two winners were drawn from the list of nearly five thousand dues-paying members. Mark Novas, M.A. '74, of Atlanta, won \$1,000 cash, while Allen Chesbro Jr. '41, of Belt, won tickets and travel expenses for two to the 1999 Griz/Cat football game. Novas had just joined the Alumni Association as a dues-paying member on November 15. Chesbro has been a lifetime member of the Alumni Association since 1944. Chesbro's wife, Lucille Sweeney Chesbro '40, is also a life member.

This fall's membership project would not have been possible without immense help from the UM Alumni Association's House of Delegates and other alumni volunteers. For information on the benefits of joining The University of Montana Alumni Association, or to learn more about UM Grizwear, call Betsy Holmquist at 1-800-862-5862 or send e-mail to betsyh@selway.umn.edu.



TEAM EFFORT

by Joyce H. Brusin

Betsy Brown Holmquist '67, M.A. '83 (left), membership coordinator for the UM Alumni Association, and Kathleen Corbally Schaub '81, director of annual giving for the UM Foundation, combined resources to stage the first-ever joint phonathon to solicit Alumni Association memberships, as well as contributions to the Foundation's Excellence Fund. Students working the phones for the Foundation's nine-week fall campaign (see p. 35) devoted two evenings to calling alumni who had been dues-paying members of the association within the last five years but had allowed their memberships to lapse. Dues-paying members help support Homecoming celebrations, class reunions, the Ask-an-Alum career mentoring program and many other activities.

More than 120 former dues-paying members had promised to renew by the time the combined effort ended. Anyone not contacted in November who would like to renew membership or join the UM Alumni Association may call 1-800-862-5862.

ALUMNI EVENTS

March

- 2 Business School Alumni Reception, Seattle
- 5 Alumni Gathering, Palm Desert, Calif.
- 8-17 Alumni International Travel—Costa Rica

April

- 10 Alumni Gathering, Western Pennsylvania
- 25 UM Senior Recognition Day

May

- 13-15 50th and 60th Class Reunions
- 14-29 Alumni International Travel—Europe's Grand Continental Passage
- 15 Commencement
- 21 Golf Tournament, Kalispell
- TBA Golf Tournament, Spokane, Wash.
- TBA Golf Tournament, Miles City

June

- 11-12 Alumni Gathering, Neckargemuend, Germany
- 16-7/2 Alumni International Travel—Russia's White Sea
- 19-27 Alumni International Travel—Village Life in Heidelberg

July

- 14-22 Alumni International Travel—Village Life in the Cotswolds
- 18-31 Alumni International Travel—Main-Danube
- TBA Alumni Gathering, Boston

For more information on these events, call the UM Alumni Association at 1-800-862-5862.

LEE IS NEW FOUNDATION HEAD



Fred Lee, with 19 years experience in higher education fund raising, is the new President and CEO of the UM Foundation. Lee came to the University in September from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

At UAB, Lee was vice president for university advancement and responsible for fund raising, marketing and public relations programs. Earlier in his career he worked for the University of Maryland System and his alma mater, St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Among his inaugural experiences at UM was the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees at which **Arthur Brown**, CEO of Hecla Mining Co. in Coeur d'Alene, was elected chairman. New vice chairman of the board is **Bruce Cook '57**, a retired Exxon executive now living in Big Sky. Cook was the University's 14th Rhodes Scholar. The new treasurer is **Penny Wagner Peabody '62** and '67, of Seattle.

Elected to their first three-year terms on the Foundation board were:

Beverly Simpson Braig '63, Kalispell

Jan D. Carter '61, Great Falls

W. Mack Clapp '70, '72, Los Angeles

John G. Connors '84, Medina, Wash.

Stephen H. Foster '63, Billings

Rita Walter Hefron '65, Bloomington, Ind.

Thomas O. McElwain '68, Butte

Ronald B. Paige '58, Philipsburg

and reelected to second terms were **Norm Creighton '58**, **Linda Phillips Knoblock '65**, **Shag Miller '47**, **John Olson '62**, **Urban Roth '56, '57**, **Ray Ryan '48, '70**, **Earl Sherron '62** and **Peabody**.

NEW PRESIDENT'S CLUB LEVELS ADDED

To encourage higher levels of giving and to give greater recognition and praise to those who make an annual gift above the minimum President's Club amount, the UM Foundation has added three new levels under the President's Club umbrella.

At the beginning of this fiscal year, July 1, 1998, the Foundation began designating donors of \$2,500 or more as members of the Oval Society of the President's Club. Gifts of \$5,000 or more qualify donors as members of the Main Hall Society and the top giving level is Carillon Society for gifts of \$10,000 or more during the fiscal year. Inaugural members of these societies will be especially honored at the annual membership dinner during Homecoming weekend.

All members of the President's Club and its constituent societies are invited to the President's Club Dinner and included in other campus events. Plans also call for some President's Club gatherings away from the Missoula campus.

Carillon Society
\$10,000+

Main Hall Society
\$5,000+

Oval Society
\$2,500+



DONORS STILL GENEROUS

Donors continue to be generous to The University of Montana.

During FY 1998, The University of Montana Foundation received \$15.3 million in gifts and commitments in support of UM programs. The gift total represents a 15.9 percent increase over the previous year, when fund raising was at the \$13.2 million mark.

"The fact that gifts continued to rise in this post-campaign year is indicative of our donors' strong commitment," said Fred Lee, president and CEO.

He continued, "It is also noteworthy that 24 percent of our alumni made gifts last year, which far outpaces the national alumni participation rate of 18 percent." Overall, UM alumni gifts accounted for 37 percent of the year-end total.

Reflecting a national trend, planned gifts—bequests, charitable annuities and trusts and other life-income arrangements—comprised 56 percent of the fiscal year's fund-raising total.

DIALING FOR DOLLARS TEACHES CALLERS ABOUT UM

For three hours a night, four nights a week, nine weeks each fall and spring, a team of 24 student callers is stationed in the survey room of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research to raise money for the annual needs of the University's academic units through the Excellence Fund.

Their nightly commitments range from \$1,200 to \$10,000, depending on the beneficiary unit of each particular night. The College of Arts and Sciences, for example, with its large alumni base can expect to raise about \$6,000 on a night dedicated to calling its graduates.

For the callers, hired by annual giving coordinator Jessie Walrath, working the phonathon is a good part-time job. Calling ends before the final weeks of the semester when studies bring higher demands. And Missoula restaurants donate pizza nightly to keep energy up. But that may be only part of the appeal.

Denise Rivera, a non-traditional freshman in business administration, found the job a chance to learn more about her chosen university. Denise says, "Since I've come back to school, I've absolutely fallen in love with The University of Montana. I wanted to help the University but especially to learn more about this place." Calling has filled her with stories from alumni about "the good old days." They share memories of the campus and their hopes for their children to attend UM when Denise and her fellow callers ask them for a gift. "Mostly, the people I call are so nice and polite and eager to talk about UM, even though I'm calling to ask them for money," she laughed. It's Denise's rule to treat the people she calls as she would want to be treated herself, and she hopes they can hear the smile in her voice that's almost always on her face.

Good alumni stories always perk her up, and make her forget the few impatient—or even angry—respondents. "They make it easier to ask people to help keep UM the great university they remember, or even better than they remember," she said.

Denise is full of enthusiasm for her job and put her name on the spring caller list even before the fall phonathon ended. She said, "We all get along great. Jessie and Shelly [Kehr, the student supervisor] encourage us so much. And I've learned a lot about UM."

The pizza is pretty nice too.

"Since I've come back to school, I've absolutely fallen in love with The University of Montana..."



Denise Rivera

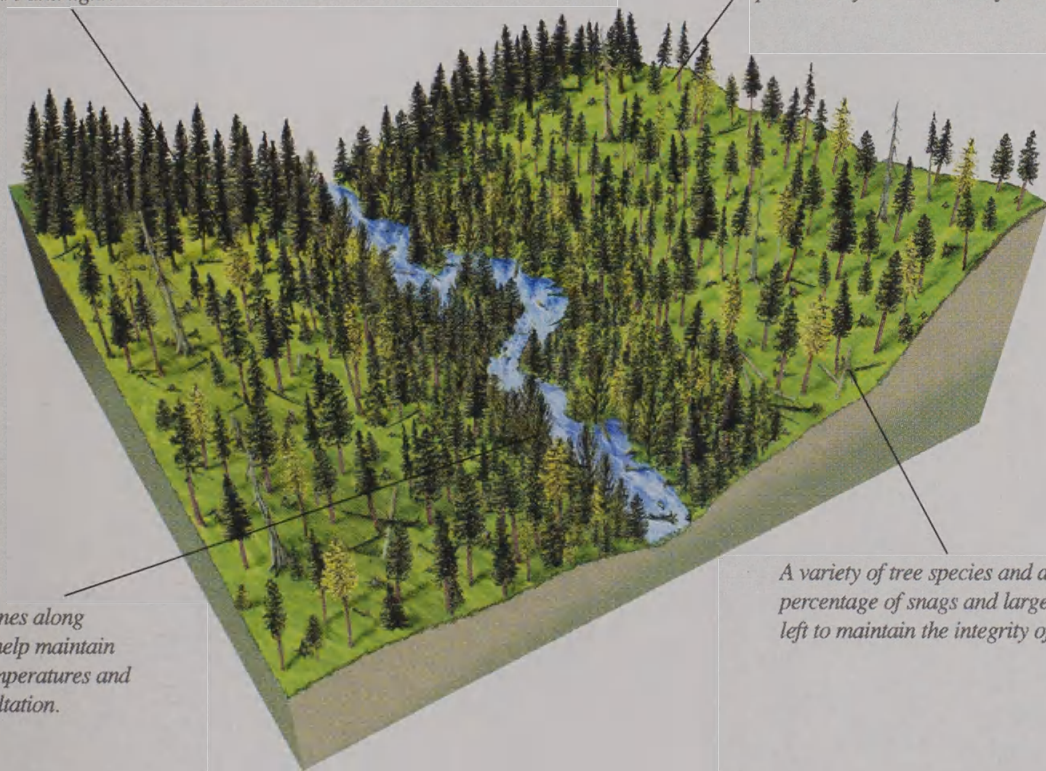
Deer are commonly seen on the UM campus, which led Admissions and New Student Services to use this photo in its 1998-99 Viewbook for student recruiting. In that publication, the caption read "More wildlife than your average university." Photo by Milo Burcham.

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In essence, we began to focus more

on what we leave and less on what we take. The result was a set of Environmental Principles which guide Plum Creek land management decisions. These principles cover everything from "enhancing ecological and structural diversity" to "cooperating with neighboring land owners."

In these ways and others, we're working to maintain a healthy forest and sustainable resource. It's good stewardship. And good business.

To receive a copy of Plum Creek's Environmental Principles, write: Director of Corporate Affairs, Plum Creek Timber Co., Box 1990, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

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